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Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

Documentary Views Islamic Fundamentalist Movements

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[FBIS Editorial Report] Vienna ORF Television Network in German at 1910 GMT on 6 June in its "Report" program features an approximately 45-minute documentary made by a French television team on Islamic fundamentalist movements, focusing on Egypt, Afghanistan, the Palestinian territories in Israel, and Sudan as well as on international links between such groups.

The documentary opens with an account of the campaign being waged by the Egyptian authorities against radical Islamic groups involved in terrorism. A former member of such a group who was imprisoned for his role in various attacks and is now assisting the authorities is interviewed on how he was recruited and on the structure of a major fundamentalist movement in Egypt. Police counter-terrorism units are shown engaging in training. This is followed by film of villages in central Egypt, which is described as the "stronghold" of Islamic fundamentalists. Villagers describe what they see as the excessively harsh measures being used by the authorities in their crackdown on terrorism. An Egyptian imam identified as Mohamed al-Charaawi is interviewed on the use of violence by fundamentalists. He says: "Does the Koran permit the use of violence to have Islamic law observed? Yes, the Koran states that one can resort to force under certain circumstances. What it says literally is: Use wisdom to spread God's word. In times of struggle and conflict, wisdom means force. In times of peace, it does not mean that."

Next, film is shown of a mosque in one of the poorest quarters of Cairo. The mosque is said to provide a wide range of social services to the local community while spreading radical Islamic ideas. Seif al-Islam, head of a group known as the Muslim Brotherhood and active in charitable work, is shown addressing a meeting at which he outlines the group's political objective. In an interview, he says that "a majority of the Egyptian population identifies with my group and wants to see the introduction of Islamic law," adding that the strict observance of Islam's teachings would not only benefit Egypt, but is also the "best solution for the entire world."

The documentary then shifts to the Palestinian communities in Gaza and on the West Bank. The activities of radical groups such as Hamas are detailed. Members of families that have seen relatives die while carrying out terrorist acts are shown talking proudly of their "martyrs." A stall holder who sympathizes with Hamas is asked about the propaganda material for the movement that he sells. In addition to pictures and recordings of songs, it includes videos on subjects such as the training of Hamas members and the construction of simple bombs.

This is followed by an account of the rivalry between radical fundamentalist groups in Afghanistan following the end of the war against the Soviet-backed government. An Egyptian imprisoned in Kabul is interviewed on how he was trained after being recruited in Egypt to fight for an extremist group in Afghanistan. He says: "We trained the whole day. There were only breaks to eat and to pray. The training lasted 35 days. I was trained in the use of light arms, Kalashnikovs, mortars, and heavy machine guns." He goes on to say: "There were 40 or 50 of us. We came from every country, for example, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Yemen" and "there were also people from the West." European police agencies are cited as confirming that radicals trained in Afghanistan have been organizing terrorist groups in other countries and an unidentified member of a French Interior Ministry intelligence service says: "They are called Afghans. They are people who organized the recruitment of militant Muslims for the struggle in Afghanistan and then there are the so-called little Afghans. They are men who themselves went to Afghanistan. They often come from lower social strata. They have undergone intensive military training and ideological indoctrination."

Next, former U.S. and Pakistani officials are interviewed on the way in which aid was channeled to mujahidin groups in Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia's role in the process. An Afghan military official is interviewed on the whereabouts of Stinger antiaircraft missiles that were provided by the United States to the mujahidin. He says: "Some countries and some terrorist groups have bought Stingers that were in Afghanistan. Iran obtained them through a pro-Iranian faction and through Hekmatjar [Afghan rebel leader]. That also applies to Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, and a few others."

This is followed by an account of how Islamic law has been introduced by the Sudanese authorities. A member of the opposition to the fundamentalist government is interviewed on his experiences in prison. Next, Hasan al-Tourtabi, who is described as an influential expert on Islamic law and head of the Khartoum-based Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, is interviewed on the use of force by fundamentalist groups. He says: "I support an armed struggle against any government that deprives its people of freedom and massacres people. That is the case with the Algerian Government. There are other powers behind that government: the Europeans are helping it with money and weapons. Everyone has the right to defend himself, to fight. That is a human right. Man has a right to freedom. I am seeking a dialogue with Europe today as I studied in Europe. I speak French, a little German, and English. However, they do not want to speak to us, because we are black, because we are Muslims, because they think back to the Crusades, the imperialist colonial period. They want to dominate us, but we will fight back if we have to."

Footage is then shown of a rally organized by the Sudanese "Committee for Popular Defense" to express solidarity with Palestinian radicals. Iranian diplomats, Iranian mullahs, Hamas members, Moroccan extremists, and Sudanese officials are shown attending and addressing the meeting. An unidentified Iranian diplomat in Khartoum is interviewed about the purpose of the rally. He talks about the need "to merge the Islamic nation" and says "we are fighting for the unification of the Islamic world in order to defeat Zionism." The documentary ends by describing the discrimination experienced by Christians in Sudan.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 30 May

NC0606090095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 30 May edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Mufti Says Israeli Court Ruling on Land Seizure Null And Void

2. Al-Azhar Body Calls For Banning Book on Abortion
3. Writer Lauds Mubarak's Remarks on Religion, National Unity
4. Awqaf Minister Comments on His Visit to Moscow
5. Editorial Urges Muslims To Stick to Koranic Teachings
6. Writer Praises al-Azhar's Stand on Land Seizure, Jerusalem
7. Al-Azhar Shaykh Urges Steadfastness Against 'Aggression'
8. Writer Comments on NEWSWEEK's Article on Muslims in Europe
9. University Professor Views 'Cultural Invasion'
10. Algerian Envoy Comments on Rome Conference, Arab League
11. Writer Calls for Islamic Summit

MUFTI SAYS ISRAELI COURT RULING ON LAND SEIZURE NULL AND VOID

A 70-word front-page report says the mufti of the republic has "stressed" that the higher Israeli court's ruling approving Israel's decision to confiscate land in Jerusalem is null and void.

AL-AZHAR BODY CALLS FOR BANNING BOOK ON ABORTION

A 40-word front-page report says al-Azhar's Islamic Research Assembly has "responded to 'AQIDATI's report and called for banning publication of the book "Al-Ijhad Darurah Qawmiyah Wa al-I'tiqad Darurah 'Ilmiyah [Abortion Is a National Necessity and Faith Is a Scientific Necessity] by Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mu'ti al-Hattu.

WRITER LAUDS MUBARAK'S REMARKS ON RELIGION, NATIONAL UNITY

Page 1 features a 350-word article written by Samir Rajab, chairman of 'AQIDATI's Board of Directors, commending President Mubarak's remarks at a 29 May meeting with journalists.

Rajab says: "In his meeting with journalists yesterday, President Mubarak settled an issue which some opposition parties had sought to exploit and use for cheap oneupmanship. It is the Muslim-Christian issue, which has never been raised in Egypt because everyone believes religion belongs to God alone and because we have lived, dreamed, endured, and fought with the same hands and minds. We chant every time the dawn breaks 'God is great, God is great.'"

Rajab goes on to say that President Mubarak reaffirmed that to him all Egyptians are alike and that Egypt is above all differences. Rajab adds: "So he slammed the door in the faces of those who specialize in sowing the seeds of sedition and discord while remaining indifferent to the fact that the country needs the efforts of all its people. They are also unaware of the fact that every minute lost has a negative effect on both its supporters and opponents and on Muslims and Christians alike."

Rajab concludes by noting that President Mubarak referred to his childhood and youth "when most of his friends were Christians" and to his service in the Air Force "when he was aided by some Christians, who did their duties most perfectly."

AWQAF MINISTER COMMENTS ON HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW

A 150-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi on page 2 cites Awqaf Minister Dr. Mahjub's remarks upon his return from Moscow after taking part in a conference on Islam and mutual understanding among religious sects in Moscow.

The minister says that during his "intense" meetings with Ukrainian, Azerbaijani, and other officials on the sidelines of the conference he discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the Muslims of Egypt and the former Soviet Union. He adds that he also appealed to them on behalf of Egypt to intensify their efforts to stop the "bloodshed" in Chechnya and support the just and legitimate causes of all Arabs and Muslims.

EDITORIAL URGES MUSLIMS TO STICK TO KORANIC TEACHINGS

A 300-word editorial on page 3 celebrates the new Islamic Hegira year and calls on Muslims to learn from the Prophet's journey from Mecca to Medina.

The editorial says: "But the important, or rather the most important, element on which the fate of the entire Islamic nation depends is the need to return to the book of its God and the tradition of its Prophet and to stick with them. This way the nation will not be seized by its enemies, who are lying in wait for it everywhere."

The editorial concludes with a Koranic verse: "Muslims should adhere to Almighty God's words: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves. "

WRITER PRAISES AL-AZHAR'S STAND ON LAND SEIZURE, JERUSALEM

On page 6 'AQIDATI carries a 380-word article by Basyuni al-Hilwani, who praises Egypt's stand on Jerusalem and on Israel's decision to confiscate 53 hectares of Arab land in East Jerusalem. The writer says: "The stand adopted by the religious establishment in Egypt has been more explicit and clearer whenever the al-Azhar shaykh, Grand Imam Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, expressed the feelings in the minds and hearts of every Muslim over the unjust stands of the Israeli and U.S. Governments. This shows once again that al-Azhar's mission is not confined to spreading Islamic teachings and propagating Islam at home and abroad. It proves that al-Azhar's true mission is to warn the oppressors, alert the unwary, enhance our determination, and combat the despair that has gripped the Muslims' lives in modern times."

The writer says all Egyptian people have stood as one man in support of Jerusalem and "sent an eloquent message to those who imagine that they can use their aid or power to control the nations' will."

Referring to the situation in Bosnia, the writer says: "Strangely, with its leniency and silence, the U.S. Administration, which claims to protect the weak and uses fiery and deceptive slogans, blesses these crimes being committed hourly against the Muslims."

AL-AZHAR SHAYKH URGES STEADFASTNESS AGAINST 'AGGRESSION'

Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, shaykh of al-Azhar, authors a 1,300-word article on page 7 commemorating Muhammad's hajira from Mecca to Medina and its significance to Muslims.

Commenting on the Muslims' situation, he says developments and changes in today's world "herald grave events that require caution, alertness, preparedness, and awareness of the dangers besetting all Arab countries and Muslims in general."

After noting that "the world's powerful ones" have remained silent regarding the "killing and displacement of Muslims in Europe," he says: "Let the nation stand steadfast and patient in the face of this iniquitous aggression against the Muslims' land until the aggressors retreat in failure."

WRITER COMMENTS ON NEWSWEEK'S ARTICLE ON MUSLIMS IN EUROPE

In a 200-word commentary on page 8, Majdi Salim reacts to an article in NEWSWEEK magazine on Muslims in Europe. He says a first look at the headline confirms that "it is an American warning to the Europeans."

He adds: "NEWSWEEK was anxious to instill fear of Muslims in the Europeans when it pondered Europe's future in light of the increasing number of Muslims there and asked how this increase is changing the way of life in Europe."

Salim says NEWSWEEK intended to remind Western Europe of "its Crusades against the Muslims and of terrorism, which they claim to be Islamic. And finally it recalls the statements of the NATO secretary general and the British intelligence chief, who stressed to everyone that the impending threat to Europe comes from Islam and the Muslims."

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR VIEWS 'CULTURAL INVASION'

On pages 14 and 15 is featured a 4,000-word interview with Dr. Ahmad Haykal, who is described as an Islamic scholar and an expert in Islamic affairs who was a lecturer at the Cairo University and other Arab and Islamic universities serving as minister of culture. Interviewer Yasir Zayn-al-Din asks the former culture minister, who is now a professor at Cairo University, his opinion of the "cultural invasion" of Islamic societies, Dr. Haykal says: "The statement that we are being subjected to a ferocious cultural invasion is a fact, but I doubt that it is planned and deliberate. The reason for the cultural invasion is that most of the big powers want to control us and other Third World or developing countries. These big powers specifically seek to control countries that play a sensitive role of moral or material nature."

Haykal notes that in the past domination was achieved by military invasions, but now it takes place through economic control. For example, he says, the Gulf states benefit from their oil and "here they benefit from our position as a gateway to Africa and Asia and from our leading position in the Arab world."

Asked about how to confront "such invasions," Haykal says that they could be dealt with by fortifying the next generations against such invasions, teaching the future generations to cling to the good and sound aspects of "our heritage," and developing culture in a democratic atmosphere.

Replying to a question on dialogues between religions, Haykal says they are needed because "there are nonreligious, harmful, and destructive trends and subversive political inclinations that harm all the believers in religion."

Answering another question about "the hatred of Islam and Muslims in the West," Haykal says that after the fall of communism, the West thought that Islam had replaced communism as the threat to it. He cites events in Iran and Algeria and the extremist Islamic trends in some Asian countries as contributing to the West's belief that Islam is a threat to them.

ALGERIAN ENVOY COMMENTS ON ROME CONFERENCE, ARAB LEAGUE

In an 800-word interview on page 20, Algerian ambassador to Egypt Ali Ben Mohamed is interviewed by Tariq 'Abdallah on the situation in his country, forthcoming elections, and the Rome conference.

The ambassador says the Algerian people support a dialogue, reconciliation, and peaceful solution, but absolutely reject interference in their internal affairs.

Asked to comment on the Arab League, he says we must preserve the Arab League because the new world order "seems to be against regional organizations" and because the Arabs and Muslims "are the new victims in today's world."

WRITER CALLS FOR ISLAMIC SUMMIT

'Adil Dayf's 240-word article on page 20 discusses Israel's actions in Jerusalem and land confiscation in general.

He says that even though the Arab countries have agreed to postpone their summit temporarily, the Islamic countries can meet at any time and adopt resolutions. He adds: "There is need to act on all domestic and foreign levels to rally our efforts and resources and send a clear message to Israel and the United States that the battle for Jerusalem will be unlimited."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Germany's Kohl Hold News Conference

JN0706113495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1110 GMT 7 Jun 95

[From the "Today's Events" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] A closed meeting between President 'Arafat and his German guest Chancellor Helmut Kohl was concluded this morning.

President 'Arafat and his German guest held a news conference at the end of the meeting. President 'Arafat welcomed his German guest, and deemed this visit a basic contribution to promoting the peace process, which needs international support, particularly from Germany.

For his part, the German guest thanked his excellency the president, saying that his visit to Jericho is important to himself personally and also to Germany. He wished the National Authority prosperity and success. He also called for the implementation of the agreements concluded between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

'Urayqat on 'Arafat-Kohl Meeting, Peace Talks

NC0806082195 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 8 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, PA minister of local government, in Jericho, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on 8 June from the "Dialogue From Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Jundi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, what are the results of yesterday's talks in Jericho between President Yasir 'Arafat and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl?

['Urayqat] No doubt, the meeting was very important in light of Palestinian-German relations and Germany's role, as an EU country, in assisting the Palestinian people and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA]. In the meeting yesterday, his excellency President 'Arafat presented a number of official proposals. They include building houses in the West Bank and Gaza. We need 20,000 new houses by the end of this century. There was another proposal for Germany to finance three Palestinian industrial zones in the West Bank and Gaza. And there were proposals on projects related to the infrastructure of the sewage system in Gaza.

[Al-Jundi] Have the Germans approved these projects?

['Urayqat] In fact, this initiative was made by his excellency President 'Arafat in the past. There were contacts with the German officials. The proposals were presented to the German chancellor and he promised to study them. The German chancellor and his delegation fully understood the Palestinian situation. The German chancellor said in the meeting that it is inconceivable to talk about peace in an area where unemployment is 50 percent, for instance, or where hardship and obstacles continue. And he said something substantive: We thought we should achieve something by the year 2000, but now we must not wait; peace must be achieved in 1995 or 1996. This is what he said. So, there was a deep understanding of the Palestinian needs. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, during 'Arafat-Kohl meeting yesterday, was the German side asked to participate effectively in accomplishing the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles?

['Urayqat] No. As I said, Germany has a special status. His Excellency President 'Arafat explained in detail to the German chancellor the developments of the peace talks, which are now being held away from media and television cameras on all tracks. He informed him of the obstacles in the way of the peace process and of the tremendous Palestinian effort to reach the phased agreement on the redeployment of the Israeli forces, the holding of Palestinian elections, and the transfer of powers before the end of this month. I believe there is a genuine German understanding as publicly expressed by Chancellor Kohl when he said that we cannot wait, that peace must be achieved in 1995, and that the phased agreement, including Palestinian elections, must be implemented before the end of this year. He strongly emphasized the need to hold free, national political elections to elect a Palestinian council and chairman of the PNA before the end of the year. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Urayqat, with the start of the countdown for the 1 July date set in the meeting between President 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres to reach an agreement on the holding of Palestinian elections, do you think, in light of the current circumstances and your recent negotiations in Tel Aviv, that such an agreement is close at hand?

['Urayqat] What are the issues currently on the table? The redeployment? An agreement was signed in Washington stating that the Israeli forces should redeploy out of the populated cities in the West Bank. So what we are trying to do now is find mechanisms to implement the agreement. Regarding elections, there are clear terms of reference to everything involved in the election process. If Israel respects what it signed in Washington, there will be no problem reaching an agreement. But if Israel continues the policy of procrastination, hesitation, and delaying tactics—these things should have taken place in July 1994—then that will be a different story. I believe his excellency President 'Arafat paid an important visit to Egypt when he met with President Husni Mubarak. If we want to be politically realistic, we must say that Egypt is now playing a basic role to bridge the gap. As the actual sponsor of the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track for over a year, Egypt is qualified to bridge the existing gap. We do not deny that there is a deep gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions. If it continues, it will obviously not be possible to reach an agreement by the end of this month. President 'Arafat, I believe, conveyed these fears to President Mubarak. He will also inform the U.S. secretary of state—the United States being the sponsor of the peace process—of these things on Sunday. But perhaps there is need for a strong intervention by Egypt or America.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you, Dr. Sa'ib.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

'Arafat Says Meeting With Ross 'Fruitful and Useful'

JN0806100495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, and the delegation accompanying him, at his place of residence in Jericho today.

Following a closed 30-minute meeting between the two, members of their delegations joined them. They reviewed the peace process, Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit on Sunday, and the preparations for it.

President 'Arafat said that Israel should respect the 1 July date because this will expedite the holding of Palestinian elections.

The talks also dealt with the free trade agreement between the National Authority and the United States and its repercussions on relations between the friendly U.S. and Palestinian peoples, and on the Palestinian economy.

The talks also dealt with the industrial areas to be built in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

President Yasir 'Arafat made the following statement to our correspondent Ahmad Zaki:

[Begin recording] [Zaki] Mr. President, how do you assess the results of the meeting?

['Arafat] The results were fruitful and useful. We discussed several issues, particularly the U.S. efforts to bring viewpoints closer together between us and the Israelis on the accurate and quick implementation of the Israeli forces' redeployment, the transfer of power, and the elections on 1 July. I always say that we take the Israelis' security needs into consideration.

[Zaki] Is there anything new carried by Mr....[question incomplete] [end recording]

'Arafat Invites EU Figure To Supervise Elections

JN0806081995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has extended an official invitation to EU Commissioner Jacques Santor to assume the task of coordinator general for the international teams which will supervise the Palestinian legislative and presidential elections scheduled to be held following the occupation forces' withdrawal from the occupied territories, and the Israeli forces' redeployment.

Sha'th Says Israel 'Must Honor' 1 Jul Deadline

JN0706190995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A Palestinian-Danish agreement was signed at the Danish mission in Jericho today. [passage omitted]

In a statement after signing the agreement, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, said he will meet with Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal next Sunday [11 June] to discuss the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Dr. Sha'th said that in the aftermath of the peace process, the heroes of Palestinian resistance cannot be treated like criminals. Sh'ath said Israel must honor the 1 July deadline to end the negotiations on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement.

PNC Official Welcomes Progress in Israel-Syria Talks

TA0806102695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Salim al-Za'nun, the acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], welcomed the progress in the talks between Israel and Syria, saying that the Palestinians hope the border between the two countries will be the 4 June 1967 border. At the same time, al-Za'nun said, if the PNC is convened soon it will discuss the proposal to cancel the Oslo agreement and will not amend the clauses in the Palestinian National Covenant calling for Israel's destruction. His remarks were reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Fatah Dissident on Meeting With Qaddumi, Zaki

NC0806111195 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 2 Jun 95 p 7

[Report by Ghassan Wahbah and Zaynab 'Asi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During a recent visit to Beirut, a Fatah and PLO delegation held a series of meetings with Palestinian forces in Lebanon. The delegation was led by Faruq Qaddumi, (Palestinian foreign minister), and it included 'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee member and a prominent opponent of the Oslo agreement, and Zuhdi al-Tarazi, former PLO representative at the United Nations. Chief among the contacts held by the delegation was the meeting with Colonel Munir al-Maqdah, commander of the Fatah forces in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. Some time ago, al-Maqdah declared his opposition to Yasir 'Arafat's political line, considering 'Arafat a Fatah dissident and labelling him a "traitor" and a Palestinian "Lahd" [reference to Antoine Lahd, commander of the Israel-backed South Lebanese Army in south Lebanon] [passage omitted]

In our meeting with him, Colonel al-Maqdah seemed skeptical about the seriousness of Qaddumi's opposition to 'Arafat. Their [Qaddumi and other opponents] positions during the upcoming Fatah Central Committee meeting will reveal their seriousness and true intentions, and we will decide our position on dialogue with them accordingly, he said.

Al-Maqdah said the meeting with Faruq Qaddumi "was nothing more than an ordinary session." The man tasked by the Central Committee with holding dialogue with al-Maqdah group to rearrange the Fatah house is 'Abbas Zaki.

Al-Maqdah said he asked 'Abbas Zaki about "the basis of Fatah unity and whether it is meant to support the Oslo agreement or foil it." Zaki stressed that "Fatah's unity is necessary for continuing the armed struggle policy and preserving the Palestinian National Convention." But al-Maqdah stressed that their remaining in their positions can be understood only as support for Oslo and the Palestinian Authority. If they want to prove the opposite, he said, they should adopt a clear and explicit position against Oslo and against anyone directly or indirectly involved in the agreement.

Al-Maqdah said this point was discussed at length, with Zaki stressing that they worked out a program for the opposition, that they are in constant touch with Syria and Lebanon and will consolidate relations with them, and that they will deepen the understanding with the Palestinian factions on the basis of opposing the Oslo agreement. We agreed to continue meetings in Lebanon and abroad with a view to reaching a unified formula of action, he said.

Al-Maqdah added: "We told Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] that we hoped his visit would be serious, not a maneuver, so that we do not repeat the story of the wolf and the sheep. We discussed the future and the current situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon, and we blamed them for all the problems. 'Arafat's position is known, and they have a vague position. So, there is no term of reference, and our people cannot tolerate promises. We emphasized that this meeting is the last chance, and their positions in the Central Committee meeting will determine our position on them and on dialogue with them."

Al-Maqdah said: "They touched on the subject of the organizational cells formed in the West Bank and Gaza and the attempt on the life of al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr. We told them we will not reverse our position. We did not target al-Hajj Isma'il as a person, but we are after the traitors. This is part of our project. When they asked us about our position toward Fatah, we stressed to them that we are still in Fatah and for Fatah's unity and program. It was 'Arafat who broke away from the movement, not us; he was the one who betrayed Fatah principles. We meet with every opponent of Oslo to develop a clear and explicit common program."

Asked about the Lebanese Government's reaction when he announced the graduation of a group of students in a military course, al-Maqdah said: "The Lebanese state supports resistance. It did not contact us on this matter. We are part of the antioccupation resistance. A few days ago we carried out an attack in al-Tuhrah. Our weapon belongs to the resistance, and we will not be an obstacle to any development. Our weapon is a resistance weapon, and what applies to the weapon of resistance applies to us."

He added: "The circumstances of our organization inside [the occupied territories] are getting better and stronger, and we are capable of introducing changes. We will soon take action against the arrest campaign launched by 'Arafat's police."

Al-Maqdah asserted that the next three months will see many important developments affecting the overall situation of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said this was also stressed by Faruq Qaddumi, who especially noted the extent of U.S. pressure on all forces opposing the dictates of the U.S.-Israeli plan. He said pressure will not bring peace to the region, and may result in actual explosions, with Lebanon possibly being one of the scenes. [passage omitted]

Hamas Steals Palestinian Officer's Weapons

*NC0706173395 Paris AFP in English
1345 GMT 7 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, June 7 (AFP) — Hamas gunmen raided the house of a senior Palestinian officer and stole his weapons in retaliation for the disarming of a Moslem fundamentalist, the Islamic Resistance Movement said Wednesday [7 June].

In a statement sent to news agencies, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the movement's armed wing, said a unit had "surrounded the house of Colonel Ahmad al-Bayram and took away his personal weapons."

The officer from Khan Yunus was told "he would get his weapons back as soon as he returned the arms taken from al-Qassam."

The raid followed the seizure by Palestinian Authority intelligence agents of a Soviet-made Kalashnikov automatic rifle from the house of Musa Kullab, a wanted al-Qassam activist.

Bayram led that operation. Kullab was not at home.

The statement also blasted Musa 'Arafat, head of Palestinian military intelligence in Gaza, for "taking upon himself the task of confiscating Hamas weapons to implement the wishes of the Israeli military intelligence, and in cooperation with it."

Palestinian security sources refused to comment on the al-Qassam claim.

The Palestinian Authority gave Gazans until mid-May to surrender or licence their guns.

PA Said Worried Over Hamas Mediation Between Iran, Egypt

*JN0706130695 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic
6-13 Jun 95 p 13*

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian sources close to circles in the Palestinian Authority [PA] in the autonomous areas have said that the PA is concerned over political moves made by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, the major Palestinian faction opposed to the autonomy accords with Israel, to arrange for high-level meetings between Egyptian and Iranian officials.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, the Palestinian sources added that Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and PA president, discussed this issue with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during his recent visit to Cairo. The Palestinian sources, which wished to remain anonymous, expressed concern over Hamas' attempts to create a coalition opposed to the acceleration of the normalization of Arab-Israeli ties, "taking advantage" of the tension in Egyptian-Israeli ties and the Egyptian officials' concern over the attitudes of the U.S. Administration and the increasingly rising influence of the isolationist groups within the U.S. Congress.

According to the Palestinian sources, Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas Movement's Political Bureau, told Dr. Usamah al-Baz, adviser to the Egyptian president for political affairs, that the Hamas Movement is willing to start a mediation effort with Iran and arrange for a high-level meeting between Egyptian and Iranian officials. The sources noted that Abu-Marzuq suggested the Syrian capital Damascus as the venue of the first meeting between the two sides. Afterward, the meetings between the two sides could be held in Cairo and Tehran alternately.

Sources close to the PA in the Jericho area said that Hamas officials have held meetings with Iranian officials in Tehran to arrange for such a meeting. They added that members of the Hamas Movement's Political Bureau informed Iranian officials in Tehran that now is the appropriate time for the establishment of ties with the Egyptian Government in order to thwart Israel's attempts to dominate the region. The Palestinian sources were concerned that the Egyptian endorsement of the Hamas Movement's mediation efforts could mark a change in the Egyptian position, which accepts the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The sources noted that the Egyptians were worried that the launch of the PA in the autonomous areas could undermine the PLO's ability to make independent decisions.

The sources said that "President 'Arafat asked Mubarak to intervene to bring these moves to a halt, contending that they could adversely affect the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, which are currently experiencing a delicate and critical phase."

In Damascus, Hamas officials have declined comment on this news report. Nonetheless, Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, Hamas representative in the Syrian capital, said: "I am unaware of such mediation efforts."

In a contact with QUDS PRESS, Abu-Mustafa added: "If the news report to this effect is true, we would not be surprised. This is because the mobilization of Arab and Islamic efforts to face up to the domination of the region by the Zionists is a sublime objective that must be nurtured by all honorable and sincere Arabs", as he put it.

Islamic Jihad Rejects Talk of 'Differences'

MM0706190895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Jun 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Islamic Jihad's Shura Council: Talk of Differences Is Sedition"]

[*FBIS Translated Excerpt*] London, AL-HAYAH — The Shura Council of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine [IJMP] has asserted that talk of differences "is sedition backed by parties hostile to the Movement." It emphasized that the Movement "is solid and united. None of its leaders has resigned and there are no differences among members of the Shura Council or at any level in the movement."

In a statement, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH in London yesterday, the Council pointed out that in the Movement's bylaws and regulations "there is no general instructor or general guide post. This is the first we have heard of such a thing. Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah's links with the movement were completely cut off a year ago... and he has not engaged in any political activity since 1988."

The statement said: "We were surprised by the agency reports citing AL-HAYAH's edition of 6 June 1995 claiming deep differences within the Movement. The IJMP's Shura Council has discussed what was published and states the following:

"1. The IJMP's Shura Council, with all its members in the occupied homeland and abroad, emphasizes that talk of differences is sinister sedition backed by parties hostile to the Movement. The IJMP is solid and united. None of its leadership members has resigned, and there are no differences among members of the Movement's Shura Council or at any of its levels.

"2. In the Movement, its bylaws, and regulations there is no such thing as a general instructor or general guide. This is the first time that term has been heard in the Movement. Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah's links with the IJMP were completely cut off a year ago, after a visit he made to Egypt, where he was received by Palestinian security officials in an attempt, later postponed, to arrange Shaykh 'Awdah's return to Gaza. And before that, since 1988 to be specific, Shaykh Moveme'Awdah has not engaged in any political activity within or outside the Movement. We were surprised by tghr amount of prevarication coming from him while distant from the Movement.

"3. Muhammad Abu-Samrah never held a leading position in the IJMP. His membership was unanimously suspended by the Movement's Shura Council three years ago for reasons of organizational conduct, after which he went to Tunis to work with (Palestinian President Yasir) 'Arafat's group as an informer and spy for 'Arafat's security organs in Tunis as well as other organs. He helped arrange the visit of Shaykh 'Awdah to Egypt in cooperation with 'Arafat's intelligence and security organs. Abu-Samrah was dismissed by a judicial commission which tried him. He signed his dismissal decision expressing regret for his crime.

"4. Sayyid Barakah works as an employee of the Martyrs' Institution of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut and has nothing whatsoever to do with the Movement's activities. He left the Movement in 1991 and worked as secretary general of a Palestinian group which appeared under the name of 'Hizballah-Palestine' and then disappeared.

"5. The names mentioned operated outside the IJMP for a long time and are now being floated in a joint plot by some quarters and Israel's Mossad to distort the image of the IJMP to pave the way for an attack on its leaders at home and abroad.

"6. Shaykh 'Awdah has addressed distorted personal issues and incomplete stories but did not address any disputed ideological or political issues. What kind of steering or guidance is that from someone who claims to be a guide or steering figure and who declares confidence in the rationality of all parties at home, including the authority which is fighting the IJMP all around the clock? If Shaykh 'Awdah has no has no ideological or political case to offer, what justification is there for his participation in this campaign, and in whose interest?

"7. The Movement's Shura Council, with all its members at home and abroad, reaffirms its full confidence in Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the Movement's secretary general who expresses the Movement's position and views on all strategic issues.

"8. We assure our people, our nation, and all the media that the IJMP, which the enemy could not harm, will not in its march be affected by false clamor which has no value in reality." [passage omitted]

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israelis, Palestinians End Third Round of Talks

Draft Agreement Reached on Labor Power

NC0706121895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1155 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—At the end of their third round of talks on the transfer of powers to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], the Palestinian and Israeli sides reached a draft agreement on the transfer of labor powers.

The draft agreement provides for the formation of five technical committees for the transfer of powers from the Israeli Civil Administration in the West Bank to the PNA in the other fields, which number more than 30 fields, and not just the eight fields which the two sides were negotiating about in the past two rounds.

The head of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations made this announcement at noon today at a joint press conference at the end of the talks.

Aaron Shahor, head of the Israeli negotiating team, has declined to confirm or deny reports that secret negotiations on the redeployment are under way between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. However, Jamil al- Tarifi, head of the Palestinian side, implicitly confirmed the reports by saying that unpublicized negotiations on redeployment are under way and are being followed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Tarifi said that the redeployment, the holding of elections, and the transfer of powers are basic and interrelated matters and that none can be separated from the others. He added that it is inconceivable that elections could be held without redeployment of the Israeli troops.

Al-Tarifi added that the Palestinians are ready to take over the responsibilities from the Israeli side immediately. He added: We are now talking about the transfer of functions in full, and not according to the earlier empowerment method, so there will be nothing called the "Israeli Civil Administration" left.

The heads of the Palestinian and Israeli sides expressed their satisfaction at the atmosphere of this round of negotiations. They said they hoped that an atmosphere of understanding prevails in all other aspects of the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

Al-Tarifi added: We hope that this atmosphere, which reflects the two parties' desire to implement the second stage of the Declaration of Principles [DOP], will continue.

For his part, General Shahor noted that during this round, which lasted for two days, the two sides managed to agree on the principles and rules by which an agreement for the transfer of power in all fields, and not just the eight fields previously designated, can be reached. He added: Now we are not talking about early empowerment, but about the transfer of power in all fields. He noted that this agreement reflects the commitment of the Israeli and Palestinian sides to the DOP concluded in Washington in September 1993.

The two sides agreed to move the venue of the negotiations on the transfer of power to Israel and to hold the next round there next week.

Talks To Resume Next Week

NC0806070995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2225 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs with the Palestinian Authority, left Cairo tonight after concluding a round of negotiations with the Israelis on the transfer of civilian powers.

He said upon departure that an agreement was reached to resume the negotiations next week through five technical working groups that will prepare for the transfer of five powers from the Israeli Civil Administration to the Palestinian Authority.

If Israel is committed to the text and spirit of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, al-Tarifi said, it will be easy to implement the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles on the agreed-upon dates. He noted, however, that lack of commitment to set dates is a characteristic of the Israeli Government.

Algeria

Security Service Confirms Killing of French Couple

LD0706114595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced that an armed group killed two French nationals this morning in El Biar District, Algiers.

The sources said that the French nationals are Jordan Louis Antonio, 65 years old, and his wife Marcel Parc, 61.

The killings took place near the export-import firm owned by the husband.

Security Forces Liquidate 12 'Terrorists'

LD0706202295 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a statement by the Security Services, the security forces have liquidated 12 terrorists during a search operation in Blida, Chlef, Mascara, Khenchla, Tebessa, and Skikda and regained a quantity of weapons and ammunition.

HAMAS Leader Urges Dialogue, Elections

MM0706094695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jun 95 p 4

[Report by Salah Jamil: "Nahnah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Some Opposition Parties Working To Escalate Algerian Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Algerian Islamic Society Movement (HAMAS), has accused parties in the Algerian opposition — which he did not name — of working to further complicate the political crisis Algeria has been experiencing for three years merely to serve their own interests. He said that the "national reconciliation" plan the opposition parties have been debating for months revealed to him the existence of such intentions.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Shaykh Nahnah said that his movement worked "through the national reconciliation plan to meet with all parties. This happened with all the parties to the crisis. We worked to advance the course of national dialogue once again. But the national reconciliation plan revealed to us the intentions of some parties whose prime concern is to further escalate the crisis."

However, he stressed that "coordination with the opposition is continuing despite the existence of some parties who are still exploiting the crisis and who do not like our distinctive position, which we cannot base on the positions of others — authorities or opposition — which is why they are working to exclude us."

The HAMAS leader renewed his support for the presidential elections plan, saying that "HAMAS believes that this plan comes amid a number of circumstances requiring exceptional positions compatible with the situation. Elections are the first and principal criterion for any democracy in the world."

Shaykh Nahnah went on to say: "This is why we are for the elections in the first place. We believe it is part of the solution, but not the full solution, in Algeria. This is why we set a number of conditions for holding these elections." Nahnah summed up the conditions as follows: "To guarantee that there are several candidates for the presidential elections, which should be used as a means for party and independent candidates to run for the presidency."

He expressed his belief that "this approach is the honorable way out for the conflicting parties." This is in addition to the administration's neutrality. And finally, following the presidential elections, to work to guarantee pluralism and "move toward tackling the crisis, alleviating the people's suffering, and rehabilitating them through real elections."

Asked whether the draft election law contains any of the proposals the movement submitted to President Liamine Zeroual at the recent bilateral meeting, Shaykh Nahnah said: "Yes, the draft law contained some of our proposals. However, we demanded and continue to demand a full revision of the election law."

He added that "insofar as the tendency is toward holding the presidential elections, the issue is of interest to both our movement and the people, because the aim is to begin to look for a way out of the crisis. Because it is unreasonable for 26 million inhabitants to continue to be ruled by an unelected authority, since this makes its decisions unacceptable inside the country and abroad, thereby causing numerous defects which can only be rectified through elections in order to settle the issue of the legitimacy of the regime in Algeria."

However, Shaykh Nahnah voiced his reservations about some provisions listed in the draft election law, first and foremost "the proxy issue, the Army's voting inside the barracks, and the phenomenon of recalling the conscripts who served between 1988 to 1991."

The HAMAS leader stressed that "the election issue is part of the dialogue, because the situation in Algeria requires numerous concessions and agreement as far as possible on common denominators. Our view has always been that a dialogue without the conflicting parties is a dialogue of the deaf. Anyone who refuses to make concessions for the sake of the higher interests of the homeland and the religion will have to bear full responsibility both in this life and in the hereafter."

Malek Outlines Aims of National Alliance

MM0706112195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Jun 95 p 6

[Interview with former Prime Minister Reda Malek by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din in Algiers; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Taqiyy-al-Din] Is it true that you are an election candidate?

[Malek] We formed the Republican National Alliance Movement [RNAM] even before there was any talk of presidential elections. Our aim was to clarify the political atmosphere and enlighten public opinion in order to save what we have been able to achieve in terms of democracy, freedom of expression, and partisan pluralism. We must endeavor to rescue the Algerian homeland, in other words the republic. Terrorism under the banner of fundamentalism attacks and rejects democracy and it attacks the whole of society. Some 48 journalists have been assassinated just because they were journalists. Teachers, intellectuals, and researchers have also been assassinated. These are very serious terrorist incidents which we must take into account. Public opinion must be enlightened about that threat and ways of confronting it. We included the word "national" in our alliance's name because we believe that the homeland is threatened and we want to bring together all the Algerian patriots who reject terrorism and who want to build a modern democratic country. We are not just talking in abstracts. We believe that the vast majority rejects terrorism but that reality has not been sufficiently reflected at the political level. I believe that the parties which attended the Sant' Egidio conference [in Rome] did not grasp the seriousness of the situation or, conversely, they did grasp it but wished to revive a dissolved party whose popularity is in fact rapidly declining.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] It seems that the Algerian people are tired of terrorism and violence but it also seems that Algerian public opinion unanimously distrusts the regime. Can the regime maintain its military line, and what do elections mean in the current circumstances?

[Malek] We, in our movement, condemn terrorism and draw attention to the danger of fundamentalism but we also strongly criticize the regime and call for the introduction of necessary reforms. The attitude of the regime has not lived up to the required standard. We would have been able to resolve the crisis earlier if the regime had a serious strategy but, unfortunately, that was not the case. So the regime's crisis is open to scrutiny. We have to reexamine it and reconsider its structure, its quality of government, and its work. Numerous matters require revision. We want to create a national democratic alternative. The other parties have been unable to do that and remained closed within themselves and without a program. The only program the parties talk about is negotiation with the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS]. They are pressing the regime to move in that direction. We say that there should be no pressure on the regime to move in that direction because the problem is not easy and it is not enough to promote such a formula in the name of what they call rationality. This is not a question of courtesy. We are facing a fundamentalist movement that wants power by any means, be it instigating the public, as in 1990 and 1991, or resorting to terrorism as is currently the case.

What is to be done about that fundamentalist movement? The head of state has made considerable efforts to find a solution but to no avail. He held talks with all these parties for months but it was like going round in a vicious circle and dialogue became useless because the main problem is terrorism, and that has nothing to do with how one views the current regime. Terrorism now wants to destabilize the country.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] But do you acknowledge that there can be no military solution to the Algerian crisis?

[Malek] There is no solution at present. That is why we say that security action should be coupled with enlightenment of public opinion. That is what we want to do to explain the complex problems. We must address the public. That is the political solution, because there can be no dialogue just for the sake of dialogue. Dialogue has its rules and requires a minimum degree of understanding but terrorism slaughters, kills, and burns, and it must be stopped, but not through dialogue with it. Whenever calming measures are taken terrorism increases. The Higher State Council had previously stopped the execution of people sentenced to death but terrorism increased and continued. Members of the [armed] groups were release from (detention) camps. What happened then? They quickly joined the terrorists. We should know what we want.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] What does enlightenment of the public mean on the ground?

[Malek] Talking to the people and organizing them so that they would reject terrorism and express their real concept of how to promote stability and build a modern state. That should be explained to the public. This ambiguity, to which the parties which went to Rome are contributing, should end.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] What is your position on the presidential elections?

[Malek] Several prerequisites must be fulfilled. And, of course, the necessary security and political conditions should be created, such as enlightenment of the public.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] And who should do that?

[Malek] Whoever wants to serve the interests of this country. We have geared our movement in that direction.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] So why should your movement not participate in the presidential elections?

[Malek] The movement was formed not long ago. It will soon discuss that matter. I wish to point out here that I personally was against the municipal elections at the time (1990) because there were no laws for the election game. We plunged into democracy without promulgating relevant laws. The result was that Islamic fundamentalism spread and controlled the municipalities, and the National Liberation Front [FLN] members were unable to confront them. Instead of learning a lesson from that catastrophic failure of the FLN, they (the regime) continued along that line and held legislative elections. Participation in the elections requires deep thinking on our part lest we repeat past mistakes.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] But many people are saying that Reda Malek will be a candidate. Some say that the Army would be wrong to nominate President Zeroual. What do you think?

[Malek] It is true that there is a trend in the Army in favor of keeping the military establishment out of the election process. We say that if we want to establish democracy in the country, the leaders of this country should be elected by the people. That is clear and is getting clearer every day.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Did you meet with the president in the course of his meetings with the parties?

[Malek] Yes, and I handed him our written observations maintaining that the security situation must be brought tangibly under control and that the republic will be in danger in the absence of a broad democratic anti-fundamentalist movement.

Communications Ministry Suspends Three Newspapers

LD0706212895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] By the decision of the Communication Ministry, the publication of three newspapers — LA NATION, EL OUMMA, and EL HOURIA — has been suspended. This decision was made following the publishing of an appeal by these newspapers which was signed by a legally dissolved political group.

The Ministry's statement adds that in addition to the violation of the law, the publishing of the said signature could harm public order and security. LA NATION and EL HOURIA have been suspended for one month, and EL OUMMA for 15 days.

Egypt

Musa on Meeting with U.S. Diplomat Dennis Ross

NC0706183195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After his meeting today with Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that they had discussed numerous issues relating to the peace process on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks, developments in the region, the efforts currently being made within the framework of the negotiations committee, and the active contacts on the peace process. He said they also discussed U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's mission during his forthcoming tour and the Palestinian track in particular. He noted that the date on which the Palestinian and Israeli parties agreed to transfer powers to the Palestinian Authority [PA] on 1 July is close. He said that efforts and negotiations are continuing regarding this date, which is important to both parties.

Musa pointed out that the Palestinian-Israeli committee meetings which were held in Cairo today on the transfer of powers had been successful. Agreement was reached on the extent of the power to be transferred to the PA. He stressed that the peace process will not be complete and lead to a comprehensive peace unless the Palestinian track is addressed in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the agreement on the comprehensive peace framework which was reached in Madrid. He said that there will be no retreat, because both the Palestinian and Israeli parties are holding active negotiations on the redeployment of forces and elections. He expressed hope that the two sides will reach agreement on time.

On the tripartite meeting among President Mubarak, Secretary of State Christopher, and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, Musa said that the meeting with Ross today was part of the preparations for this meeting, but no agreement has been reached on the framework of the meeting, although such a meeting has not been ruled out. He noted that the proposal to hold the tripartite meeting is not Egyptian; the parties concerned agreed to hold it. He noted that such meetings are important because there are numerous problems that must be discussed and resolved, particularly the obstacles facing the peace process. He said that all issues, including the

Israeli nuclear program, will be discussed during the tripartite meeting. [passage omitted]

Positive Results Seen From Christopher's Tour

NC0706143895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 7 Jan 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "Christopher and the Hoped-For Peace in the Middle East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive in Cairo on 9 June as part of a tour of the region during which he will have talks with the leaders of the countries concerned with the Middle East crisis. What concerns us about this tour is its results and whether there will be any new developments toward a positive outcome consistent with the Arab hopes for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

We can say that the latest developments lead us expect some positive results from this tour unlike the previous 13 trips Christopher has made since he assumed this post. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has stated that the Golan is Syrian territory and that Israel has no intention of controlling its Syrian people. This is a new Israeli acknowledgement that became public only a few days ago. Moreover, an agreement on certain security arrangements on the Golan was reached, according to announcements by U.S. and Israeli sources that have not been denied by any other sources, which verifies their truth. These statements are in keeping with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's statement that Syria is eager to reach a comprehensive peace with Israel in return for complete withdrawal from the Syrian Golan—an issue that is non-negotiable, particularly since the Madrid Peace Conference of 1991 endorsed the principle of land for peace. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin confirmed this stance when he declared that the Israeli people will support him when the withdrawal from the Golan is offered in return for a comprehensive peace with Syria. Thus, Rabin confirmed that the Israeli people desire peace and normal ties with Syria.

If we review the statements made in the United States—the cosponsor of the peace process—and the statements made in Israel and Syria, the most difficult area in the peace process, we agree with that there is a trend that this year will witness a visible relaxation in stances, because the Syrian and Israeli people want to have peace as a prelude to normalization of ties between them. Economic circles in Israel in particular and in Europe in general are also eager for peace, because peace between Syria and Israel would restore stability to the Middle East and open up new horizons in the trade and economic fields. This would bring on an atmosphere that has become necessary for all parties after the global slump that has lasted since the end of the Cold War as a result of waiting for developments in the Middle East. The Middle East is one of the most important and vital areas for Europe and other countries that desire cooperation with the peoples of this region.

Perhaps German Chancellor Helmut Kohl warned following his talks with regional leaders that obstructing the current peace efforts might cause serious setbacks that would adversely affect all peoples and countries of the region. We think that the Arabs have high hopes for reaching a genuine peace with Israel provided it is founded on fairness, because this is an indispensable requirement for its survival. To reach this desired peace, the land-for-peace principle on which the countries of the world concurred at the Madrid Conference must be upheld all parties to the conflict without stalling, prevarication, or circumvention. The peace opportunities provided by the current leaders may not recur if circumstances change; and no one can definitely say that this might not occur in the near or distant future. There may be many surprises, and they might not be to our liking. We hope that this fact will not be ignored.

UN's Ekeus Investigates Past Weapons Cooperation

NC0706155595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources in Cairo have disclosed that Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Committee entrusted with eliminating the Saddam Husayn regime's weapons of mass destruction, visited Cairo last week. He discussed with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Egyptian military officials Egypt's cooperation with the Iraqi ruling regime in supplying missiles and chemical material before the Gulf War, the sources added.

Citing these sources, who asked to remain anonymous, AL-HAYAH says the UN committee is not making any charges against Egypt, nor is it seeking information about its armament programs. The committee, the paper added, is seeking to verify information provided by the ruling regime in Baghdad about the quantity of chemical material it imported from Egypt.

The sources said discussion is under way about past cooperation between Egypt, Saddam Husayn's regime, and Argentina to manufacture the (?Condor-2) missile to check the information the UN committee received from Saddam's government.

Mauritanian Minister Delivers Message to Mubarak

NC0606210395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a message from Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmad Taya when he received the Mauritanian foreign minister today. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Mauritanian ambassador to Cairo also attended the meeting.

The Mauritanian foreign minister later left Cairo at the end of a two-day visit during which he held talks with 'Amr Musa on ways of promoting bilateral relations.

Water Pollution Said Cause of Cholera, Typhoid

95LD0065A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 21 Apr 95 pp 56-59

[Article by Majdi Sabalah: "In Wake of Typhoid in Shubra al-Khaymah and Cholera in Damietta and al-Sharqiyah, Who Is in Charge of Drinking Water; Housing Minister: Pollution Begins With Citizens Themselves; Seven Billion Pounds To Complete 594 Drinking Water and Sewerage Projects; Collapsing Networks and Hypothetical Life Span of Treatment Plants Are Cause of Pollution; Ground Water Pumps Cause Typhoid, Kidney Failure, Hepatitis, and Cholera"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Who is in charge: Housing or utilities? Egypt's population drinks 12 billion cubic meters of water daily.

Six months ago, there were 288 suspected cholera cases in Damietta and twice this number in al-Sharqiyah. Now, there are 408 cases of typhoid in Shubra al-Khaymah. All these cases are due to polluted drinking water, according to the admission the health minister himself made before the People's Assembly last week in the wake of an urgent query submitted by Shubra's deputy as a result of the mixture of drinking water with unsanitary sewerage water.

When a query was submitted by Muhammad Awdah and Id Salim, the two deputies from Shubra al-Khaymah, to the Housing and Utilities Committee, the Housing and Utilities Ministry became responsible for pollution.

The housing minister has stressed that the citizens themselves are responsible for pollution, as evidenced by the fact that when inspections were conducted in Damietta and Shubra al-Khaymah, it became evident that citizens were using tin cans for water closets in their homes.

By the testimony of the officials themselves, collapsing networks and the old plants that have surpassed their hypothetical life span are the reason for drinking water pollution.

The serious thing is that the water utility itself extends pipelines to the middle of the river to draw less-polluted, fast-moving water instead of drawing water close to the banks so as to curtail pollution.

Both health and housing authorities have agreed that underground pumps used to draw drinking water in Shubra al-Khaymah are the cause of typhoid and other diseases, such as kidney failure and cholera.

What is more dangerous is the inability of the water treatment plants to separate chemical compounds resulting from agricultural drainage flowing into the Nile.

Health authorities are warning even wealthy quarters, which use water filters, of the increased danger of pollution. Some people are careful to purchase mineral [bottled] water.

Muhammad Awdah, a People's Assembly member representing Shubra al-Khaymah, has said that 80 percent of Shubra al-Khaymah buildings are in violation of the law and drink sewer water and that only 20 percent deal with the water utility. At the city council, there are 46,000 applications for home electricity meters.

In addition to the exhausted old network from which consumers get their potable water, turbid water is drawn by pumps. Everybody uses this water until disease appears.

Id Salim Musa has asserted that the danger comes from the fact that Musturud and Shabin al-Qanatir irrigation canals, which have turned into canals carrying factory-dumped chemicals, pass through Shubra al-Khaymah. These chemicals have begun to seep from the canals into the soil, causing high pollution in the underground wells used by citizens for their drinking water. These wells have caused more than 400 cases of typhoid, which have filled the hospitals of al-'Abbasiyah, Imbabah, and Bahtim, not to mention the numerous cases treated at private clinics.

The evidence of drinking water pollution is obvious, according to the officials themselves. Perhaps the most serious statements have been made by Engineer Mahmud Abd-al- Halim, an ex-chairman of the National Drinking Water Authority, who has said that water treatment plants cannot separate chemical compounds from the water, especially chemicals resulting from agricultural drainage dumped into the Nile. According to Engineer Abd-al-Halim, it is suspected that this drainage is the cause of the latest developments in Damietta.

Pollution begins with the purification plants themselves for several reasons, the first being the method of operation and maintenance of these plants. Abd-al-Halim asserted that, to date, there is no special operation and maintenance budget even though we have plants valued at 16 billion pounds in the republic.

The second cause of water pollution is the management of the plants by local authorities that lack expertise. These authorities take over plant management after the Ministry of Housing installs the plants.

Confirming his statements, Abd-al-Halim said that, during a visit to Mahallat Abu-Ali plant in al-Gharbiyah, "I found a 50-centimeter thick layer of mud on top of the plant's sand filters. This means that the filter is not functioning. The filter has to be cleaned daily. Upon confronting the engineer in charge, it became evident that the filter had not been cleaned for a full year. I recall that that engineer was transferred at the time on a governor's decree."

As for the dangers confronting these plants, which are technically beyond plant capability, they are embodied in the failure to separate chemical compounds dumped into the Nile water or into canals on which plants are built. Regarding the collapsing networks that cause pollution, engineer Abd-al-Halim said, "We have plants that have been in operation for more than 50 years and that have never been maintained, especially in the provinces. At that time, only Egypt had treatment plants. Even so, 70 percent of Egypt's population drank underground water. In 1967, agreement was concluded for the construction of 40 plants as part of Egypt's drinking water program. But, because of war circumstances, those plants were left exposed to the elements until 1982, and their construction did not start until the start of the first five-year plan. By then, most components of the plants had been damaged, and the plants did not operate with the desired efficiency. A contract was then concluded for 16 more plants within the context of the water program, and they are being installed as part of the current plan.

Collapsing Networks

In addition to the flaws in these plants, there are flaws in the main and subsidiary pipeline networks, which have become corroded and which allow other water to mix with drinking water, thus causing pollution of which the citizen may not be aware.

He said the plants' daily capacity amounts to 12 million cubic meters consumed by Egypt's population, in addition to the manual pumps that are used by a high percentage of Egypt's rural population.

Water Desalination

Water Expert Engineer Mahmud Abd-al-Halim went on to explain how drinking water plant reservoirs can be cleaned correctly, saying, "Water purification starts with sterilization of the reservoir by adding a chlorine solution to it. The solution is obtained by mixing one pound of 25-percent concentrated [chlorine] with 20 liters of water. This solution is then mixed with 400 more liters and stirred for 15 minutes by propellers. This liquid, which contains the chlorine, is then used to sterilize the water reservoir for 24 hours. Water is then pumped into the reservoir, and the purification process is started by adding the permitted chlorine and alum percentages. Water samples are tested until they reach the level that makes them potable. The same system is used to treat underground well water, taking into account the potassium and magnesium carbonates found as sediments in underground waters."

Abd-al-Halim added, "Most of these plants, especially in the provinces, have surpassed their hypothetical life span. Therefore, the majority of inhabitants of al-Sharqiyah villages have resorted to ground pumps, which create serious health problems due to the proximity of drainage [plants?] to underground water pumps. It has been proven that drainage water seeps into the underground water from which Shubra's pumps draw their water. The problems are also due to the proximity of livestock corrals and organic manure piles. Hydrochloric acid is used to treat underground water and to get rid of the carbonates. High-concentration chlorine is used to kill bacteria. It has been proven that all water produced by underground water pumps in Egypt is polluted, especially in the villages of al-Sharqiyah villages and in the villages of al-Marj, al-Khusus, Bilqas, and Bahtim in Shubra al-Khaymah. We have become certain that these villages draw from sewage water because of the breakdown of their [water] networks."

I asked Engineer Abd-al-Halim about the requirements for installing a pump. He answered, "The owner must obtain a permit from the Ministry of Works because pumps are installed at a shallow depth that invites pollution. The pumps must be less than 50 meters away from drainage pumps and sewerage networks. He said the pumps are manufactured in private workshops in the towns of Tahta and Tama in Sawhaj. Their price could reach 500 pounds, and there is high demand for them by farmers who use these pumps without any water sample tests. We received reports that underground water in al-Daqahliyah, Kafr al-Shaykh, Qina, Sawhaj, and al-Buhayrah is polluted. Consequently, it was agreed with a military industry plant to manufacture a device that is placed at the mouth of a manual pump to eliminate magnesium and iron from pump water. Such a pump costs 400 pounds."

Nile and Chemicals

Engineer Sa'd al-Dib, head of the Greater Cairo water utility, denied that drinking water is polluted. However, he voices some warnings, the first of which is that he has resorted to extending water-drawing pipelines to the middle of the Nile River because water there is less polluted than water adjacent to the banks.

Al-Dib has asserted that purification plants cannot separate chemical compounds found in the Nile water because he deals with impurities. This warning has been confirmed by daily tests conducted at the utility's laboratories to test the Nile water before treating it. The tests are conducted because water in the middle of the river is fast moving.

He said that 95 percent of the water with which the utility deals is from the Nile. After treatment, 97 percent of this water is potable. The other 3 percent comes from outside the plants, seeping through the collapsed main and subsidiary networks.

I asked him about his control over water produced by underground pumps in unplanned areas. He said, "I am not responsible for it, even though it is all polluted, without exception. I am not responsible for its pollution because people do not know their own good."

I asked: Why don't you invite pump owners in the Greater Cairo to submit samples of their pump water for analysis?

Al-Dib answered, " I am prepared to do so, but only at their own expense because testing requires compounds, chemicals, and equipment. So they have to pay the cost.

I asked him: Do you recommend the installation of filters?

He said, "This action is rejected because the water is fit for consumption, and it does not need filters. It is just an extra cost." Engineer al-Dib has asserted that daily measurement of the Nile's pollution levels has proven that this pollution percentage is lower this year than it was last year and the year before that. This is a good sign of reduced drainage into the river.

Well Pollution

Engineer Abd-al-Salam Awad, Housing Ministry undersecretary for utility affairs, has said that as soon as the Housing Ministry became aware of the pollution of underground water, which is still being used until potable water is made available in all areas, it installed purification plants on underground wells in dangerous areas in al-Sharqiyah, al-Daqahliyah, and Kafr al-Shaykh, especially in wake of the tests conducted by the Health Ministry and the Drinking Water Authority. The tests confirmed to us that these wells are polluted. Their use has been suspended until purification plants are installed on them as part of the [Compalt Unit] project. These units are "mobile plants" that are installed on canals, Nile subsidiaries, or underground water wells. Each unit has a daily capacity of 200 cubic meters, and it can be installed at spots proven to be polluted. Network elements and chlorine are used for sterilization so water will be potable.

Because of these polluted sources, the Housing Ministry is currently building 300 small purification plants to be installed in the various governorates.

This is in addition to 16 major water plants in several large cities to supply areas within the jurisdiction of these cities. The Health Ministry is assigned to take samples from these plants and to notify the authorities concerned of the results through local governorate agencies. This is in addition to the laboratories of the National Drinking Water Authority, which test water samples from water plants while they are being installed. But the authority has no responsibility after the plants are turned over to local authorities.

Engineer Abd-al-Salam Awad added that the Housing Ministry is drafting a national plan to extend sanitary sewerage services to 143 big towns and villages throughout the country in order to curtail the problem of sewerage water mixed with drinking water.

He said that the Ministry of Public Works is responsible for watching the installation of pumps, whether for drinking water or for irrigation water, because it is in charge of 4.5 billion cubic meters of underground water, according to health authorities' estimates.

Damietta Water

Engineer Muhammad Abduh al-Sharbini, chairman of the Damietta Drinking Water Company, has asserted that water sources in front of the treatment plants is polluted because of the fish farms existing on the Nile. It is well known that these farms use an organic feed that contains compounds that are difficult to separate at the purification plants. He added, "Moreover, we employ the alternate pumping system, namely to pump water into the network in a certain area and then stop the pumping in order to shift to another area, and so forth. With the breakdown of some pipelines, there can be pollution sources. Therefore, we use the highest chlorine percentage permitted internationally."

The Damietta Water Company chairman complained that the mouth of the Nile at Damietta is polluted because agricultural drainage overflow is dumped all along the river bank from Fariskur to Izbat al-Burj. This dumping has made the color of the river water blue.

After 288 samples were tested last October, it was proven that the Damietta water reservoirs were polluted.

I asked the chief health inspector in Damietta, who declined to reveal his name, about the samples he collected from the Nile in 1994 and about the difference between these samples and samples collected 10 years earlier. He said: "There is a big difference between past and present pollution degrees. All we do is to notify the plants of the pollution degree so they will make their calculations of the required treatment substances."

Dr. Mahmud Hajras has asserted that samples are tested by a specialized doctor. He said, "In wake of the Damietta developments, a health inspector was assigned at the beginning of the network and another inspector at the end of the network to observe water when it is first pumped into the network and when it reaches the end of the network." Dr. Hajras added that chlorine concentration in water must amount to 1-1.5 parts per million to prevent water pollution.

Preventive Medicine

Dr. Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, Health Ministry undersecretary for preventive medicine, dots the i's and crosses the t's. He asserts that Egypt's drinking water comes from two sources: Surface water, namely Nile water, which is used for drinking after it is treated. Drinking water must meet certain natural, chemical, and biological standards in order to be potable.

Water that meets the well-known standards of colorless, tasteless, and odorless is known to be fit for consumption. Dr. Abu-al-Nasr warns against installing filters at homes because "they retain organic material and bacteria that accumulate until they turn into masses, which then get into the faucets [and then into the human body], which cannot fight them. The filter retains the bacteria at its mouth, and this bacteria can then be pushed into the faucet all at once. Children can drink ordinary water. It has been reiterated that parents buy mineral [bottled] water for their children out of fear of faucet water even though ordinary filtered water is potable and meets the standards. If the smell of chlorine is detected in drinking water, it is no problem because chlorine is not harmful to the human body.

"Sanitary inspection of drinking water begins in the plants themselves through presence of the health inspector. Inspection is intensified when infection cases appear in a certain area at a high rate. In this case, we begin periodic one-hour inspection of the water, and we follow up on previous samples."

Dr. Abu-al-Nasr added, "Water utilities have their own laboratories to verify water quality. The utility's responsibility is to supply water at the purity level determined by the Health Ministry. When faults surface, we notify the utility immediately.

"The second source of drinking water is underground water. The Health Ministry has no control over this water, which is found at two levels: The first is the shallow water level, found at a depth of [?]-30 meters. The second level is at a depth of 60 meters below the first solid rock layer.

"Shallow water is polluted because its sources have been mixed with drainage canal water and sewerage water and because they are close to irrigation water drainage sources, not to mention cracks in the surface of the earth. The problem is that shallow water contains less salt. Therefore, its taste tends to be sweetish. Consequently, people seek it, imagining that it is potable, even though this water causes 40 percent of the diseases that afflict man, such as diarrhea, kidney failure, typhoid, and endemic hepatitis. This water contains excessive amounts of heavy minerals. This water can also cause cholera and other [communicable] diseases by polluting food."

Unified Water Network

Housing and Utilities Minister Engineer Salah Hasaballah has asserted that the ministry is working at present to build a unified drinking water network in order to maintain water pressure in the pipelines and to curtail pollution, keeping water pressure at the same level. The ministry is also exerting efforts to eliminate the phenomenon of repumping water to high elevations so as to curtail the use of water tanks [on top of buildings].

As for drinking water and sewerage projects, a sum of [seven] billion pounds has been allocated to complete 594 projects in all of Egypt's towns and villages. These projects will be completed by the end of the current five-year plan to meet people's needs according to priority. The minister added that desalination plants will be installed on artesian wells to eliminate their pollution.

The quality of the sanitary installations will be controlled according to a technical code that the Construction Authority is developing currently.

When I asked the minister about the cause of pollution, he showed signs of surprise and said, "Can you believe that people still use tin cans' for water closets. Has not this been the cause of disease. People are polluting themselves through these disgusting' practices."

Finally, have we become certain that drinking water is the responsibility of the Housing Ministry?

[Begin box]

One Hundred and Eight Cases of Typhoid

[Article by Layla Marmush] For nearly 500 people of various ages to develop typhoid in one area is something that makes one wonder, especially since summer diseases have not arrived yet. For the health minister to announce at the People's Assembly in response to an urgent query that the number is growing and that the main source of infection is water polluted with sewage liquids is also surprising. Government agencies are supposed to move to confront the spread of typhoid in the form of an epidemic in a crowded area. The tasks of the ministries concerned complement each other. Each ministry does not operate in an area isolated from the others.

Regarding the true nature of the typhoid cases in Shubra al-Khaymah, Dr. Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, Health Ministry undersecretary for preventive medicine, has said: "The number of suspected cases has reached 487 cases to date, and they are all confined to Sharq [East] Shubra al-Khaymah Quarter (behind the homes of Esco, al-Bakri, al-Khusus, Izbat Abu-al-'Ula Kassab, and Atiyah Quarter). The majority of the patients are from one area (Abu-al-'Ula Kassab). This area gets its water from one source, namely a network belonging to the Greater Cairo Water Utility, plus an underground water plant in the area. The network pipelines have weakened in several places, and this exposes them to constant breakage. Moreover, the homes have motors to raise water from pumps, thus making it easy for sewerage water to mix with drinking water in these homes. This is a source of infection.

"Inspections have also shown that excavation work has been going on in many places in the area for two years in order to build a sewerage system next to the main water network. Moreover, there are spots in the area were numerous sewers are flooded and where there are garbage dumps. As a result, flies, which are another source of infection transmission, multiply in these spots.

"This has made us determine that the main source of pollution is drinking water mixed with sewerage water. This mixture caused contamination with colonic group germs.

"Suspected cases have been quarantined in three hospital: 191 cases in Imbabah Communicable Diseases Hospital; 229 cases in al-'Abbasiyah Communicable Diseases Hospital; and 67 cases in Bahtim Communicable Diseases Hospital. It is noticed that these cases include all ages and that they are divided equally between the two sexes.

"The ministry has moved to set up an emergency room and to take water samples from the various sources of the network for bacteriological and chemical tests.

"Moreover, the number of hospital beds in Bahtim Communicable Diseases Hospital has been increased to accommodate the cases that suffer from vomiting and diarrhea, coupled with high fever.

"The Greater Cairo Water Utility, the Shubra al-Khaymah Town Council, and the chief of Sharq Quarter have been contacted to repair the water network promptly."

This is what the undersecretary in charge of preventive medicine has said. The question we have is: How are we going to face the summer and its diseases when sewers are flooded and when garbage heaps have become an ordinary sight? [end box]

Morocco

Security Council Team Visits To Assess UN Mission

Team Arrives; Schedule Detailed

LD0406220595 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A UN team sent by the Security Council arrived in our country this morning. The team is composed of six permanent ambassadors to the United Nation: The ambassadors of the United States, France, the Sultanate of Oman, Honduras, and Argentina, and the ambassador of Botswana as the head of the team.

On the UN team's arrival at Mohamed V International Airport in Casablanca, the head of the team, Joseph Legwaila, made a statement to journalists in which he said that the team has come to Morocco to assess the work of MINURSO [UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara] and preparations at voter identification centers, and to attempt to resolve some of the problems concerning the preparations.

The UN team will hold contacts and consultations with the Moroccan Government before leaving for Algeria, Mauritania, and Tindouf refugee camp for consultations on the same issues, and then returning to New York where the team will submit its report to the Security Council.

The team was welcomed by (Hafid Ben Hachem) and (Othman Bouabid), officials of the central administration at the Ministry of Interior.

Team Leader Comments on Visit

LD0506130595 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Casablanca, June 5 (MAP) — A six- member mission from the United Nations Security Council arrived here Sunday [4 June], first leg of a six [word indistinct] tour in the Western Sahara region to assess the progress made by the MINURSO [UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara] and identify problems in the identification process. The mission is made up of the ambassadors of six members of the Security Council, namely Argentina, Botswana, France, Honduras, Oman and the United States.

Ambassador of Botswana and head of the mission, Joseph Legwaila, told the media the mission will assess the work of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and take note of the arrangements made in the identification centers. The mission, he said, will try to settle the problems related to the identification of the persons entitled to participate in the projected referendum. The deadline for the referendum which had been repeatedly postponed was set for January 1996.

The mission which is entrusted with impressing upon the parties the necessity to cooperate fully with the MINURSO in implementing all aspects of the UN settlement plan is to confer this Monday in Rabat with Moroccan officials including Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali before flying to Algeria. The mission will visit the identification centers in Tindouf, south western Algeria, and will visit Laayoune, southern Morocco, before flying to Nouakchott. The mission is to make a report to the Security Council after its return to New York.

The mission members were guest Sunday evening to a dinner banquet hosted in their honor by King Hassan II.

The Security Council had said in a presidential statement that the mission will assess progress and identify problems in the identification process, bearing in mind the deadline for the referendum of January 1996, and identify problems in other areas relevant to the fulfillment of the plan, including the reduction of Moroccan troops, the confinement of Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] troops, the release of political prisoners and detainees, the exchange of prisoners of war and the return of refugees.

Commenting on this tour, Moroccan daily 'AL-BAYANE' expressed hope that it will give momentum to the process and speed up implementing the UN settlement plan. The daily of the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS/opposition) said there is no need to recall that the Polisario separatists are behind the stumbling of the process and that the MINURSO members have repeatedly lauded the genuine and sincere cooperation shown by the Sahrawi populations and by the Moroccan authorities.

Meets With Interior Minister

LD0506220095 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Mr. Driss Basri, minister of state for the interior, has held an important meeting at the Interior Ministry with the members of the UN mission on the Sahara. The meeting took place in the presence of Mr. Ahmed Senoussi, Moroccan permanent representative at the United Nations, and the close aides of the minister.

The meeting dealt with the means which should be made available in order to speed up the issue of determining identity, so that the referendum can be organized in our Western Sahara in January 1996 as specified by the UN secretary general in his latest report to the UN Security Council. Mr. Driss Basri pointed out that the Moroccan government, which has spared no effort in this regard, would like to reaffirm anew its preparedness to make every effort so that the referendum can be organized on time. He recalled that the proposal on organizing the referendum was made at the initiative of His Majesty King Hassan II, and as a proof of the good intentions of Morocco which continues to contribute to the success of the UN- sponsored peace process in the region.

Mr. Driss Basri also dwelt on the efforts and facilities which Morocco offers in order to secure the success of the mission. He stressed the necessity of applying all the standards for determining identity so that all those who hail from the Sahara can without discrimination exercise their right to express their views during the organized referendum.

The meeting was characterized by an atmosphere of understanding and responsibility. The chairman and members of the mission received detailed replies to the questions they raised.

Meets With Filali; Views Referendum

LD0506142295 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Security Council's delegation, which is visiting our country, has held its first contact with the Moroccan officials. Within this framework, this morning the delegation conferred with

Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, in the presence of Taieb Fassi Fihri, secretary of state for foreign affairs, and of Ahmed Snoussi, Morocco's permanent representative to the United Nations.

The talks focused on the various aspects of the file of the Moroccan Sahara, particularly those relating to the organization of the affirmative [affirming the status quo of Western Sahara as a Moroccan territory] referendum.

Ahmed Snoussi, Morocco's UN permanent representative, gave the following details on the meeting:

[Begin Snoussi recording] The prime minister received the delegation which includes the ambassadors of Botswana, Oman, France, Honduras, Argentina, and the United States. Once the delegation had given a briefing on the mission entrusted to it by the UN Security Council, the prime minister reiterated the willingness and the readiness of His Majesty's government to cooperate with the MINURSO [UN Mission for the referendum in Western Sahara] to hold the referendum, which will reflect the Moroccan people's will, and allow the MINURSO efforts to reach their conclusion within the framework of the Security Council's recent plan. [end recording]

Sudan

Official Addresses Rebels, Economics, U.S. Ties

JN0806094295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Jun 95 p 4

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, minister of culture and information, by Samir al-Hijjawi in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Hijjawi] What are the results of the efforts aimed to make peace in the south?

[Sabdarat] Our main cause in the south is to make peace in the country, and we are working for this objective. Six years after the revolution, we succeeded in liberating more than 90 percent of the southern land. We control eight of 10 provinces in the south in which we began the peace process. Only limited areas on the border strip with Uganda remained out of control, and we agreed to stop the military operations there following the mediation of Jimmy Carter and Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi.

We believe in solving the issue of the south through dialogue, but if we are forced we will fight to restore some rebel-controlled cities.

[Al-Hijjawi] Will you enlighten us on the economic situation in Sudan?

[Sabdarat] There is an undeclared siege imposed on Sudan, and there is a U.S. attempt to put Sudan on the list of the countries that sponsor terrorism. We face constraining attempts by the International Monetary Fund and an attempt to let Sudan voluntarily withdraw from the fund, which is something unprecedented and although Sudan has an economic growth of 9 percent, as the World Bank admits, which is something unmatched even by developed countries. Although we face economic pressure and necessary assistance to us is withheld, we are self-reliant in the agricultural sector. The situation is difficult in term of prices, especially after the liberalization of the economy which has led to price hikes and has caused some problems. This is something that happens with any party that wants to introduce change.

[Al-Hijjawi] What is the reason for the deterioration of Sudanese relations with the neighboring countries?

[Sabdarat] Uganda is an Israeli base, and President Museveni [of Uganda] dreams of becoming a new Cromer [British consul general in Egypt in 1883-1907] in Africa. He believes that he can repeat the Israeli example in Uganda especially since 65 percent of the Ugandan population are Muslims, and his regime is very shaky. We are busy with our main issues and will safeguard the borders. We will remain patient because we do not need more tension. Tension has started in an artificial manner, but it is frozen now and we hope it will be reversed into warm relations. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hijjawi] How are Sudan's relations with the United States?

[Sabdarat] We are confident that the United States is a pragmatic country which believes in interests more than politics. After years of attempts to employ pressure on Sudan and to impose things by force, Carter's initiative, which we do not isolate from the U.S. Administration, and sending Ambassador Melissa Wales [name as transliterated] are probably attempts to defuse tension in relations.

Vice President Returns From Iraq, Jordan Visits

EA0606201395 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Republic's second vice president, Police Major General George Kongor Arop, returned to the country yesterday after an official visit to Jordan and Iraq.

In a press statement he issued on his arrival, the major general described his visit to Jordan and Iraq as a positive one in which tangible results were achieved toward promoting Sudan's bilateral relations with those countries. He said he had discussions with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on bilateral issues and issues related to the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. He added that he had delivered a letter from President al-Bashir addressed to his brother Saddam Husayn. He said he had stressed to the Iraqi officials the stand of the Sudanese people and government in support of their Iraqi brothers.

The vice president said he had met his Iraqi counterpart, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, with whom he discussed all areas of cooperation in the economic and educational fields, as well as ways of promoting them. Kongor said that the government and people of Iraq had stressed their support for Sudan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peace.

He also said that he had discussions with the monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, King Husayn, concerning issues of mutual concern in the Arab region. [passage omitted]

Arrests Follow Reports of Opposition Activity

NC0606201395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1944 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 6 Jun (MENA)—Sudanese security forces arrested 10 popular leaders and several members of the Communist Party and al-Ummah Party in Halfa last week.

According to independent sources in Khartoum, the government is worried about the likelihood of a military clash on its eastern border. This followed reports that the Sudanese opposition and the Sudanese alliance forces led by retired Brigadier General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid transferred their activities to Eritrea in the wake of the break of diplomatic ties between Sudan and Eritrea last month.

In the first Sudanese reaction to the unconfirmed reports about the situation in East Sudan, Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, minister of state and secretary general of the International Popular Friendship Council, said that the government has monitored activity hostile to it led by Brig. Gen. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid and backed by Eritrean President Issaias Afeworke.

Dr. Isma'il said that the government is willing to confront any emergencies on its eastern border and that the security forces have placed opposition movements in East Sudan under surveillance.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Confers With Arab League Head

JN0706141395 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1035 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 7 Jun (WAKH) — Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah received Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and his accompanying delegation here today.

During the meeting, the prime minister and 'Abd-al-Majid reviewed the latest developments in the Arab and Gulf arenas and the efforts being exerted to support and enahance Arab solidarity. His highness underlined the importance of boosting Arab soldiarity and Arab joint action, particularly at this crucial stage in the history of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir Receives Saudi Islamic Affairs Minister

LD0706145795 Riyadh SPA in English
1232 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait, June 7, (SPA) — Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah received in his office at Bayan Palace in Kuwait yesterday Dr. Abdallah Bin 'Abd-al-Mohsin al-Turki, the visiting Saudi minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Call and Guidance.

During his meeting with the Kuwaiti amir, Dr. al-Turki conveyed greetings to Shaykh Jabir from the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the national guard and Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, defense and aviation minister and inspector general.

For his part, the Kuwaiti amir asked Dr. al-Turki to convey his regards to the custodian of the two holy mosques and the crown prince.

During the reception, Dr. al-Turki highlighted King Fahd's efforts in boosting the Islamic work all over the world and praised the strength of bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Ali Bin Fahd al-Zumay', the Kuwaiti minister for Islamic affairs and endowments, Tarrad al-Harithi, the Saudi ambassador to Kuwait and Dr. al-Turki's accompanying delegation

Meanwhile, Shaykh Sa'd al-abdullah al-sabah, the Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister received at his office in Bayan Palace in Kuwait yesterday Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Mohsin al-Turki.

During the meeting, Dr. al-Turki conveyed to Shaykh Sa'd greetings from King Fahd, the crown prince and the second deputy premier.

Dr. al-Turki also gave a briefing to Shaykh Sa'd on the Islamic work, the latest circumstances facing the Islamic mission and the necessity of consolidating efforts in order to boost the global Islamic work and call as well as the need to support Moslem minorities throughout the world.

The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti minister of Islamic affairs and endowments Dr. Ali Fahd al-Zumay', Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Tarrad al-Harithi and Dr. Ali's accompanying delegation.

Shaykh Sa'd praised King Fahd's stands in support of Kuwait during the Gulf crisis.

Saudi Arabia

Yemen's Salih Continues Official Visit, Holds Talks

Visit To Address 'All Disputes'

LD0706140695 Riyadh SPA in English
1229 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, June 7, SPA — Yemen's President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih visited yesterday Yemeni Consulate in Jeddah city where he talked to a number of Yemeni residents in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During the conversation, President Salih highlighted the strength of ties between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. 'The leadership of the kingdom is far-sighted and wise. I do have personal relations with King Fahd. My visit to the kingdom comes in the framework of containing all disputes. I express thanks to the custodian of the two holy mosques and his government on what has been provided by them to the Yemeni residents in terms of care and attention. I wish the kingdom all success and prosperity,' he added.

Information Minister Greets Delegation

LD0706155695 Riyadh SPA in English
1221 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Jeddah, June 7, SPA — Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir received at his office in Jeddah yesterday a Yemeni information delegation, which is accompanying president 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on his current visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Al-Sha'ir welcomed the Yemeni information delegation and wished them a good stay in their second home.

He affirmed the close, historical and brotherly relations between the two countries and said the Monday night meeting between Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was considered as renewal of steady and firm relations between Saudi Arabia and Yemen depending on joint cooperation in the interest of the two leaderships and their people.

Al-Sha'ir greeted the opening of a new page of ties and cooperation in the sphere of information. "You will always find an open heart and a listening ear as well as sincere desire to boost up further the information process between the two countries," al- Sha'ir said. "It needs sincere efforts and continuing follow up in order to highlight the shining pages of information links. It also calls for treating issues on the spot through wisdom and rational thinking," he added.

At the end of his brief speech before the delegation members, on behalf of him and his colleagues in the Ministry of Information, al- Sha'ir said "we are glad to meet on the path of welfare, which is guided by directives of our leaderships."

Al-Sha'ir, then replied to some of the questions raised by members of the delegation.

The Yemeni delegation expressed deep appreciation for al-Sha'ir's greetings, welcoming words, their good meanings and truthful feelings toward the republic of Yemen under the leadership of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his government.

The delegation affirmed its members' desire to exchange more contacts between mass media organs of the two countries by forging constant joint cooperation to accomplish the aspired goals.

The Yemeni delegation expressed thanks for getting this opportunity to confer with the Saudi information minister to help strengthen further information cooperation and brotherly relations. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Holds Talks With Salih

LD0706162995 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1348 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 7 Jun — At his office in al-Salam Palace this afternoon King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Republic of Yemen.

The meeting was attended by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general; Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz; Royal Court adviser Prince 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Fahd; Ibrahim al-'Anqari, personal adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; Minister of Education Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir; and 'Ali Qufaydi, the Kingdom's ambassador to the Republic of Yemen.

Salih Predicts Progress in Future Ties

JN0706183295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a news conference at his place of residence in al-Hamra' Palace in Jeddah this morning. The president spoke about the outcome of his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his talks with his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and senior Saudi officials.

The brother president asserted that Yemeni-Saudi ties will witness greater progress in the future, since they are relations between two fraternal and neighborly states that share bonds of brotherhood and kinship. The brother president added: The future will see activity by the joint committees that were formed in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries. The purpose of this is to implement the memorandum. He pointed out that the memorandum has outlined firm foundations for future ties between the two brotherly states. He noted that the border agreement between Yemen and Oman is a model that can benefit all Arab states, on the basis that is causes harm to no one and does not impose a fait accompli policy.

On steps that will be taken by the Yemeni Republic to translate what has been discussed into decisions, the brother president asserted that the visit, which is in response to an invitation by his brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, is in itself an expression of turning the memorandum of understanding into concrete reality.

The brother president added: Yemen will adopt all the legal and constitutional measures to translate all that has been discussed between the two sides into reality.

Salih Receives Expatriates

JN0706114995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen, received at the Yemeni Consulate General in Jeddah today several members of the Yemeni community in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who welcomed the president's visit to the Kingdom. They also expressed their pleasure at this historic visit which embodies the deep relations between the two sisterly countries.

Addressing them, the brother president said: We are happy with this visit which comes in response to an invitation from my brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. God willing, this visit will be a new start for Yemeni-Saudi relations which we are eager to promote and develop. He said: The leadership of the two countries showed farsightedness and wisdom although the foreign press did its best to create tension in the brotherly relations. Wisdom existed and my personal relations with His Majesty King Fahd prevented dragging the Yemeni homeland into what the enemies of both countries were aiming at.

President Salih said: We made every effort to contain the differences which the enemies tried to sow. We succeeded in meeting senior leaders — headed by King Fahd — and in clarifying all issues and removing the misunderstandings between us through frankness and clarity. We are used to frankness and clarity in our relations, which we hope will be restored to normal. We agreed to remove obstacles and restrictions of the past. We also agreed on all other issues and things are going well.

President Salih added: As the custodian of the two holy mosques has told me, our people enjoy his care and that of all officials. So, you are citizens in your country, Saudi Arabia. God willing, these obstacles will be removed for good so we can have freedom of movement, exchange of goods, and transportation of citizens within the framework of adherence to the regulations of both countries. Facilities will be offered to citizens in both countries.

Moreover, the president added, the joint committees will begin work next week, including the border committee, to demarcate the borders between the two countries in areas that have not yet been demarcated, to demarcate the territorial waters, and to discuss and reinstall the landmarks of the al-Ta'if agreement. All the provisions of the al-Ta'if agreement will be implemented so that both Yemen and Saudi Arabia will obtain their rights in a cordial and brotherly way.

President Salih continued: It is a great gain to hold dialogue without foreign mediation or intervention because we are all sons of one homeland and one peninsula. We cannot do without the Kingdom and the Kingdom cannot do without us. Moreover, Yemeni citizens in the Kingdom receive great care and we highly appreciate this. The custodian of the two holy mosques, Prince Sultan, and Prince Nayif have told me that our people in the Kingdom are considered sons and brothers and enjoy special care.

On the domestic level, the president added, we will instruct the government to provide expatriates all facilities at Customs points when they return to the homeland from the diaspora. There is a number of government members here and they should take up this issue at cabinet sessions and offer all the care and facilities to the expatriates. We will also instruct the government to offer all facilities for movement between Yemen and the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Salih on Border Demarcation Progress

LD0706204295 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Republic of Yemen held a news conference at his residence in Jeddah in which he stressed the deep relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen, and the development and growth of these relations in the future, in the interest of the two countries. He expressed his profound appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its contributions to development activities in Yemen.

[Begin Salih recording] The memorandum of understanding signed between Yemen and the Kingdom on 27 Ramadan [26 February] established the foundations for the future of the Yemeni-Saudi relations. We came to the Kingdom at the gracious invitation of the custodian of the two holy mosques to put this memorandum into practice. God willing, all obstacles and all the restrictions that occurred as a result of misunderstandings following the Gulf war have been clarified, and Yemeni-Saudi relations will witness progress for the good of two neighboring countries, God willing.

The demarcation of borders between Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman was a splendid example that should benefit us and all the Arab countries. Before the realization of Yemeni unity, there had been an on and off dialogue for more than 10 years [with Oman], but after the realization of Yemeni unity, talks between Yemen and the brothers in Oman took just four sessions. There was an agreement in particular on the demarcation of borders. There was no harm done by historical considerations or a policy of fait accompli, and there was an agreement that was satisfactory and agreeable to both sides. The borders have been demarcated and we have finished with this issue. We consider this agreement a model. God willing, this will be a model to follow in the near future for demarcating the still undemarcated border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia in the coming days. Committees have been set up which will be announced in the joint statement between Yemen and the kingdom which fixes a timetable for the work of these committees. God willing, the results will be positive. We highly appreciate the contributions of the Kingdom in the development operations [in Yemen] in the past, and, regarding future cooperation, we hope that there will be joint action to serve Yemen and Saudi Arabia for the common good of the two neighboring countries. [end recording]

Afterward, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih answered questions by journalists on the results of his talks with the custodian of the two holy mosques and the most important issues discussed, in addition to the future of relations between Arab countries following the liberation of Kuwait and the economic situation in Yemen. The questions also touched on the Arab-Israeli peace process and his country's views on it.

Salih Agrees To Renew al-Ta'if Accord

NC0706164795 Paris AFP in English 1440 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, June 7 (AFP) — Yemen, seeking to end an inter-Arab rift provoked by the 1990 Gulf crisis, agreed Wednesday [7 June] to renew a treaty recognising Saudi Arabia's control over a disputed border area.

The 1934 al-Ta'if accord that awarded three border provinces to Saudi Arabia "will be renewed without modification," Yemen's President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih told reporters after a reconciliation summit with Saudi King Fahd.

Yemen refused in 1992 to renew the agreement, sparking tension that degenerated into armed clashes with Saudi Arabia along the border last December and January.

Salih did not say when the third renewal of the lease would take effect. The lease is for 20 lunar years on which the Moslem calendar is based.

After weeks of negotiations the two sides signed a declaration of principles in the Saudi holy city of Mecca which set up commissions to demarcate the border and establish peaceful ties.

The declaration called for no changes in the al-Ta'if accord which granted the provinces of Najran, Jizan and Asir to Saudi Arabia.

Salih and King Fahd, who met in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, held their first talks since relations soured over Yemen's alleged support for Iraq ahead of the 1991 Gulf War.

Presidents Hold Closing Session

JN0706182895 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 1800 today, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, returned to the capital, Sanaa, after a successful, fruitful three-day official visit to the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The visit was made in response to an invitation to the president by his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

An official closing session was held between our country and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The session was cochaired by brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

During the session, the two sides resumed their discussion of issues related to enhancing and promoting fraternal ties between the two countries. The two sides also discussed issues and developments of interest to the two countries and the Arabian Peninsula, as well as Arab and regional developments of interest to our Arab nation, primarily the peace process in the region. In addition, the two sides reviewed issues of common concern.

The brother president spoke at the session. He said: I highly appreciate and thank my dear brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and their highnesses, for the warm reception and hospitality. This is not strange, and this will have a positive effect on each citizen in Yemen and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. What has been achieved during this visit is a step that will be followed by other steps. We will implement all our decisions. We will complete each step with other steps. You will be received by your brothers in Yemen with love, warmth, and solidarity, God willing. The brother president also lauded King Fahd's wisdom and eagerness to strengthen ties between the two fraternal, neighborly countries.

The custodian of the two holy mosques also spoke, reviewing the history of relations between the two countries and their strong, old ties. He said: Our task as leadership is to work to restore Yemeni-Saudi ties to what they were before, and even to make them better. Our two peoples have strong ties of kinship, and we share common traditions and customs. We cannot do without Yemen, and Yemen cannot do without us. The relationship between Yemen and Saudi Arabia should always be good. It should be promoted to the highest levels. This will serve the two peoples and the nation. We should all work so that all Arab countries may achieve integration in economic and material aspects. This way, the Arab nation will have a strong and active role to play.

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, saw off the brother president. He gave him a very warm, brotherly hug, wishing him and the accompanying delegation a safe return home. King Fahd expressed his satisfaction with the fruitful results of the talks to enhance fraternal ties between the two fraternal and neighborly countries and peoples.

Joint Communique Issued

LD0706210695 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A joint communique was issued at the end of the official visit of His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Following is the text of the communique:

In an atmosphere filled with sentiments of brotherhood and cordiality and in an expression of the well established fraternal relations that link the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen and in response to an official invitation from his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Major General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen, accompanied by a high ranking delegation, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the period 7-9 Muharram 1416, corresponding to 5-7 June 1995.

An official reception was accorded to the distinguished guest and the accompanying delegation. At the forefront of the welcoming party was King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques.

During this visit official talks were held between the two sides which were characterised by a spirit of cordiality and brotherhood. Taking part in these talks, in addition to the leaders of the two fraternal countries, on the side of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were: His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Na'if Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, interior minister; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Excellency Ibrahim Bin-'Abdallah al-Anqari, personal adviser of the custodian of the two holy mosques; His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education; and His Excellency 'Ali Bin-Muhammad al-Qufaydi, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Republic of Yemen.

And on the side of the Republic of Yemen: His Excellency Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the National Assembly; His Excellency 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Ansi, deputy prime minister; His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; His Excellency 'Abd-al-Qadir Bajammal, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development; His Excellency Isma'il al-Wazir, legal adviser to the president; His Excellency Haydar Bin-Salih al-Hubayli, adviser to the president; His Excellency 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, minister for legal affairs and House of Representatives affairs; His Excellency Ahmad Musa'id Husayn, minister of transport; His Excellency 'Ali Muhammad al-Ansi, chief of the president's office; His Excellency 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bushayri, secretary general of the presidential office; His Excellency 'Abdallah al-Bar, adviser at the presidency; and His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabbab, ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The two leaders also discussed current Arab, Islamic, and international issues. They underlined their support for the peace process on all Arab-Israeli tracks in order to reach a just and comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue and to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the principle of land for peace and realizing a complete Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab areas and the recovery of the Palestinian legitimate rights and the establishment of their own state whose capital would be holy Jerusalem.

The two leaders called on the Security Council and the co-chairmen of the peace process to prevent any change to the character of holy Jerusalem, its population or geography, by Israel which would alter its position as existed in 1967.

The two leaders expressed their conviction that a just and lasting peace must realize equal and balanced security for all sides by making the Middle East region an area free of all weapons of mass destruction and that all its states should join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and put all their nuclear establishments under the guarantees system of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In the Islamic arena, the two sides expressed their great concern over the criminal aggression and the glaring defiance of international legitimacy which are being committed by the Serbian forces against Bosnia. The two sides reaffirmed the importance of the international responsibility for protecting the people of Bosnia and in safeguarding their legitimate rights and enabling the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to exercise its legitimate right of self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

During the talks, the two sides stressed their eagerness to boost Saudi-Yemeni relations in various fields to achieve the development of relations between the two fraternal countries. In order to achieve that aim, the two leaders stressed their satisfaction with and commitment to the memorandum of understanding signed between the two fraternal countries on 27 Ramadan 1415 AH, corresponding to 26 February 1995. The memorandum, which was approved by the two fraternal countries, stipulated setting up committees. The mission of these committees includes, in addition to resolving the border issue, the development of economic, trade, and cultural relations and strengthening cooperation between them.

The two leaders stressed their determination to provide the means for the success of these committees, considering that they are the pillar through which the relations of the two fraternal countries will develop and their prosperity achieved. The two leaders are eager to develop and deepen these relations in a way that achieves the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples, entrenches the relations of neighborliness between them, and safeguards their common interests in a way that guarantees security and stability for them.

In order to express the depth of the fraternal ties between the two countries, they agreed to work to remove all obstacles impeding trade, investments, and transports in accordance with the regulations in force in the two fraternal countries.

They stressed their eagerness for the security and stability of the Arab peninsula and the Arab Gulf region and stressed that they will do all they can so that relations of fraternity and neighborliness will prevail between the states of the region.

The two sides agreed on the importance of Arab solidarity, stressed [the need] to consolidate it and remove ongoing disputes, and urged the return of harmony between the Arab states on the basis of Arab and international legality and the consolidation of the role of the Arab League in this respect. The two sides also expressed their concern over what is taking place in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and appealed to all the parties to commit themselves to the ending of the dispute and to realize security and stability in Afghanistan. The two sides also expressed their concern over the continuation of the bloody conflict between the Russian forces and the Chechen fighters and called on the Russian Federation to strive for a peaceful settlement of the conflict that guarantees the interests of both sides and meets their aspirations for security and stability and the preservation of the cultural and historic identity of the Chechen people and their religious beliefs.

At the international level the two sides stressed the need to establish just and balanced economic relations between the advanced and developing states, and the need to remove restrictions from the transfer of technology and data exchange in order to attain prosperity, justice, and equality among the countries and peoples of all the world.

At the end of the visit His Excellency President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen, expressed his appreciation and the appreciation of the delegation accompanying him for the interest shown at the official and popular levels in this visit. He expressed the pride of the Yemeni Republic in the progress and prosperity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, which he and the delegation accompanying him witnessed.

His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemeni Republic, renewed the invitation to his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to visit the Yemeni Republic. The custodian of the two holy mosques expressed his appreciation for the invitation and promised to pay the visit at a suitable time.

Yemen

Talks With IMF, World Bank Conclude

JN0706192295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between Yemen and the IMF and observers from the World Bank concluded at the Conferences Room at the Yemeni Central Bank today. Our country's delegation to the talks was led by Finance Minister Muhammad al-Junayd. Central Bank Governor 'Alawi Salih al-Salami and Dr. Mutahhar al-Sa'idi, deputy planning and development minister, took part in the meetings. The IMF delegation was led by (Jacob Piak), deputy director of the IMF Middle East Department, and (Tharthar Khan), head of the World Bank mission.

During the two-week talks, the two sides reviewed our country's economic measures and assessed their various affects on the overall economic activity. They also reviewed the role of the IMF and the World Bank in supporting the government reform program through the extended financial and technical aid and the additional resources that can be obtained from international and regional organizations and donor states.

The two sides also discussed some measures to ease debt burdens and reschedule their payment to boost growth and ease the burden on the balance of payments. The two sides also discussed a social security program with the assistance of the World Bank and the IMF. Donor states' support to achieve the desired results of the recent monetary measures was discussed. The two international bodies' officials expressed appreciation for the Yemeni Government's financial and monetary measures and steps.

United Arab Emirates

President Meets Bosnian Prime Minister Silajdzic

JN0706125395 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received Haris Silajdzic, prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, at the Presidential Office this morning.

During the meeting, they reviewed the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the international community's position toward the current escalation by the Serbs.

His highness the UAE president stressed the need for the international community to take a firm position that will put an end to aggression on the Bosnian people and enable them to defend themselves.

For his part, the Bosnian prime minister noted the UAE president's firm stand, his backing and support for the Bosnian people, and the UAE's support for the Bosnian people's struggle in defense of their territory.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan; Presidential Office Chief His Highness Shaykh Surur Bin-Muhammad Al Nuhayyan; Ports Department Director His Highness Shaykh Sa'id Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan; His Highness Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, under secretary at the Ministry of Information and Culture; and His Excellency Khamis Bitir Rumayfi, director of the UAE president's office.

Al-Anbar Tribal Chiefs Pledge Loyalty to Saddam

JN0706160995 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Several tribal chiefs in al-Anbar Governorate have addressed cables to the leader president, may God preserve him, in which they renewed to his excellency the pledge of loyalty and affirmed that they remain loyal soldiers behind the flag of Allahu Akbar which is raised by the leader president, may God preserve him, as well as their readiness and the readiness of their tribes to make every sacrifice. They are:

1. Shaykh Hazim 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Ali al-Sulayman, chief of al-Bu-'Assaf tribe, al-Anbar.

2. Shaykh Khalaf 'Abdallah Muhammad al-Zahir, chief of al-Halabisah tribe, al-Anbar.
3. Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Samir al-Janabi, chief of al-Janabi tribe, al-Anbar.
4. Shaykh Fawwaz Daham al-Hilayyil, chief of al-Bu-Fahd tribe, al-Anbar.
5. Shaykh Daham 'Ayyadah Matar, chief of al-Ma'adid tribe, al-Anbar.
6. Shaykh Hikmat Muhammad Samir al-Shallal, chief of al-Mahamidah tribe, al-Anbar.
7. Shaykh 'Abbas Muhammad al-'Abbas, chief of Jumaylah tribe, al-Anbar.
8. Shaykh Hadi Yusuf al-'Irsan, chief of al-Sa'dan tribe, Zawba', al-Anbar.
9. Shaykh Hasnawi al-'Ayfan, chief of al-Bu-'Isa tribe, al-Anbar.
10. Shaykh Bayram 'Abd-al-Qadir, chief of a clan from al-Mawali tribe, al-Anbar.
11. Shaykh Muhammad Jawad al-'Unayfis, chief of al-Bu-'Alwan tribe, al-Mahawil, Babil Governorate.
12. Shaykh al-Sayyid Fahmi 'Abd-al-Karim, chief of Al Mustafa al-Khalil tribe, al-Mahawil, Babil Governorate.
13. Shaykh 'Inad Mi'jil al-Ku'ud, chief of al-Bu-Nimr tribe, al-Anbar.
14. Shaykh Bazya' Mi'jil al-Ku'ud, chief of al-Bu-Nimr tribe, al-Anbar.

Reportage on Country-Wide Agricultural Activities

Al-Anbar Organizes Harvest Seminars

JN0706163495 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 27 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Anbar — The al-Anbar branch of the Union of Cooperative Peasants Societies has organized five seminars in the various districts and subdistricts of the governorate to explain the need to intensify efforts and expedite the grain harvest and to market the entire crop to the 10 marketing centers in the governorate in order to ensure food for the people and thus defeat the economic embargo on our steadfast people. It was also decided during these seminars to organize campaigns for collective harvesting of the cultivated areas under the cooperative societies and to ensure all requirements for the success of the harvest and the marketing campaign.

Dhi Qar Farmers Face 'Legal Measures'

JN0706164095 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 27 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Dhi Qar — The Agricultural Committee which supervises the harvesting and marketing campaign of wheat and barley in Dhi Qar Governorate held a meeting which was devoted to discussing the stages which district and subdistrict subcommittees had covered so far in carrying out this campaign.

It was decided during this meeting, which was attended by Dhi Qar Governor Salah 'Abbud and the comrade secretary and members of the party branch leadership, to take immediate legal measures against the peasants and farmers who failed to market their crop and to authorize the heads of administrative units to apply these measures and to refer the names of defaulters to the higher authorities so that they will be announced in the news media.

The conferees affirmed the need to apply the agricultural plans which had been prepared by the agricultural departments in the governorate and to ask the heads and members of the subcommittees to report at the fields and farms in order to ensure the needs of peasants and farmers.

Rice Planting in al-Qadisiyah Noted

JN0706164295 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 27 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Qadisiyah — Almost 65 pecent of the land which has been allocated for rice growing in al-Qadisiyah Governorate this season has already been plowed. Governor Tariq Fayzi al-Hazza' has told an INA correspondent that the Departments of Agriculture and Irrigation have provided all the necessary requirements for the rice planting campaign which will take place during the period 1-15 June. Some 210 tractors belonging to the private sector and the Society for Mechanized Agriculture are currently taking part in plowing the land.

The authorities have also distributed seeds and fertilizers and dredged the main streams and canals in the area in order to ensure fair distribution of water.

The governor said that several seminars were held this month for about 7,000 peasants and farmers to explain the importance of expediting the harvest of wheat and barley, plowing the land with deep Burroughs since shallow plowing can be harmful to plants, and avoiding excessive use of nitrate fertilizers to ensure a high-yield crop.

PUK Leader Ready for Talks with KDP's Barzani

LD0606114595 Tehran IRNA in English
1122 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mahabad, West Azarbaijan Prov, June 6, IRNA — Jalal Talabani, the leader of the patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), has voiced readiness to negotiate with Mas'ud Barzani, the leader of Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

The radio station affiliated to the PUK quoted Talabani as saying that the union would not leave the city of Irbil unless the KDP evacuated the city of Salah al-Din.

The KDP last week unilaterally extended the period of the ceasefire for another 45 days.

Paper Discusses 'Crimes' of Barzani, Talabani

JN0706162395 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic
27 May 95 pp 1, 6

[Follow-up report by unidentified AL-'IRAQ correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our people in the autonomous region tell all kinds of stories about the words and conduct of Jalal [Talabani], Mas'ud [Barzani], Kosrat, and other agents who have become servants for the alien. They are bitter stories, because they show what has become of our Kurdish brothers due to the agents' disregard for everything that is related to life and humanity.

Agent Jalal used to accuse agent Mas'ud of stealing money from the customs revenues in Dahuk. Now that he, too, has customs revenues following his control of al-Sulaymaniyah, he has stopped mentioning the subject of stealing money. According to agent Mas'ud's radio, Jalal now receives 21 million dinars daily. So, everyone is stealing money and both agents are keeping silent over each other's crimes.

The people also relate what a 70-year old man has told a relative of agent Mas'ud who got angry when the citizens paid no attention to him during his visit to Dahuk. This old man told him: A new fate is awaiting you and also Jalal and all the members of his leadership. This fate is different from all the previous ones. This time, the people will not let you escape, but will punish you severely.

In addition to all these stories, the people also talk about the members of two gangs who have committed various crimes of theft and murder for personal interests and stolen food. They say that Communist Party agents, in cooperation with the mercenaries of agent Jalal, have hijacked three trucks loaded with food in the Kafri District and killed their drivers.

Meanwhile, saboteurs have stormed the house of Engineer 'Umar Sa'id Husayn in Irbil, killing him and stealing his household effects, just because he belongs to agent Mas'ud's group. These mercenaries have also hurled a hand grenade at the house of Ibrahim Agha, killing seven members of his family.

Regarding the smuggling of goods across the border, it is said that members of agent Jalal's gang have dismantled the asphalt plant in Shahr-e Zur [name as transliterated], al-Sulaymaniyah, and smuggled all its machines and equipment across the border where they were sold for $9 million.

Such stories are heard daily, especially the story about the theft of electricity poles and transformers from the village of Haladzi [name as transliterated], Kafri District, which has caused frequent power cuts.

The agents are committing crimes daily. However, our Kurdish people will one day hold them accountable and punish them for every crime they have committed, as that old man has told agent Mas'ud's relative, who must have communicated his conversation to agent Mas'ud and the words must have reached agent Jalal also.

Kurdish Aspirations for Independence Viewed

Federal Solution Sought

95LH0143A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
8 Apr 95 pp 8-9

[Article by Sami Shawrash: "To Confine Us Within Various Political Entities Contributes to Instability"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Are Iraq's Kurds taking steps toward establishing an independent state in northern Iraq, or are they seeking recognition of their own identity within a united Iraq? Kurds themselves say: Despite legitimacy of the demand to establish an independent state on all or part of their national lands—which extend from the southern ends of the Black Sea in the north to the plains of the Arab Iraq in the south and from Taurus Mountain and the Lesser Taurus Mountain Range in the west to the Iranian plateau in the east—Iraq's Kurds don't aspire, at least in the foreseeable future, to more than a federal solution to their political issue, considering the complexities of the region's political fabric. To understand the dimensions of this issue, it is better to shed general lights on some subjects connected with the Kurdish demands.

When the structure of the world political order settled on the principles of bipolarity (communist east and capitalist west) in wake of World War II, the Iraqi Kurdish national movement's slogans and tendencies experienced a fundamental transformation. The most important aspect of the transformation was the Kurdish movement's shift from the demand of creating a special [independent] state, as happened in the rebellions of Shaykh Mahmud al-Hafid in the period between the two world wars, to the demand for cultural and political rights within Iraq's boundaries.

The reasons for the shift were numerous, but the most important was the Kurds' feeling that, after World War II, their issue entered a dark tunnel by virtue of the rise of bipolarism and its cold war. On the basis of that bipolarism, Western countries were interested no longer in promoting the creation of new entities in the Middle East (excluding a few exceptions). However, the problem was that the Kurds' abandonment of the projections of an independent state did not achieve the goal sought by that abandonment. When the southern parts of Kurdistan were annexed to the State of Iraq in 1925, the Iraqi Army began to execute large-scale military campaigns against the Kurds to force them to merge in the Iraqi society. Meanwhile, similar campaigns were carried out to disarm Kurdish tribes and to establish central government agencies in their mountainous provinces. The government also abolished laws it had promulgated previously to sponsor the Kurdish language and to permit its use in education in the Kurdish provinces. Moreover, the government implemented policies to reduce Kurdish participation in government.

Those actions did nothing but harm and frustrate Kurdish aspirations. They also helped spread sweeping resentment among Kurds, keeping in mind that Kurds constituted nearly one-quarter of Iraq's population and that their territories produced more than one-half of Iraq's oil output, and were also a rich food basket for the other parts of Iraq.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 coincided with the collapse of the bipolar system and with the transformation of the United States into the world's only pole. Fortunately for the Kurds, the new order's first blow was the expulsion of Iraq from Kuwait and the imposition of international sanctions against the State of Iraq as a consequence of the failure of its invasion.

With the emergence of the early signs of the end of the cold war in 1988, Kurdish leaders felt the need to remind the superpowers of the Kurdish people's conditions. Consequently, Kurdish leaders Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani cabled the George Bush-Gorbachev summit requesting the two leaders' support for developing a political solution to the Kurdish national issue.

At a later phase, Talabani visited Washington and met with prominent US congressional and State Department officials. The purpose, according to Talabani himself, was to remind the United States that Iraq's Kurds viewed the new order with eagerness and satisfaction after having suffered gravely from the cold war.

When Iraq's invasion of Kuwait failed, the Kurds declared a large-scale rebellion in the spring of 1991. When that rebellion failed in its fight against the Iraqi Army, the Western countries (United States, Britain, France, and Germany) declared their intention to protect Kurds north of latitude 36 (safe zone) from Saddam Husayn's aggressions, thus forcing the Iraqi Government to withdraw its administration from that area. So, for the first time since the disappearance of their republic (Mahabad) in 1946, the Kurds were faced with a persistent temptation to declare an independent state.

The Kurds avoided yielding to the temptations of the idea, despite their historical thirst to establish their own entity. They decided to hold local elections in May 1991, and they founded a parliament and a provincial government on the basis of those elections, stressing their eagerness to remain a part of the Iraqi state. At a later time (4 October 1992), they promulgated a law in accordance with which they embraced the federal solution to Iraq's Kurdistan, stressing that this formula reflects their aspirations and their ethnic and cultural rights within a united Iraq.

Even though federalism is a formula employed internationally to resolve ethnic problems within multiethnic and multilingual countries, such as the United States, Switzerland, and the FRG, the Kurdish Assembly's declaration was confronted with major objections and obstacles despite Kurdish insistence that the purpose of federalism was to strengthen Iraq's unity and to bolster its entity on bases that permit Kurds to hold their equivalent position. In face of the Kurdish desire, numerous Iraqi political forces and parties objected, expressing strong suspicions that federalism concealed within its folds the Kurds' plan to break away from Iraq and to fragment the united Iraq into weak entities. Arab circles, some of them official, expressed their fear that federalism would lead to exposing Iraq's sovereignty to the threat of disintegration and that it constitutes a serious precedent for igniting ethnic, religious, and sectarian conflicts within the complex social fabric of the Arab countries.

Turkey and Iran have displayed great displeasure with the Iraqi Kurds' federalism for fear that it would encourage their own Kurds (more than 12 million in Turkey and more than 9 million in Iran) to aspire for similar goals. At the same time, Western countries have avoided announcing support for the Kurdish declaration so such announcement would not contribute to intensifying the Middle East's internal conditions.

Kurds don't conceal that their dream is to establish their own entity. Neither do they deny that the emergence of new international and regional horizons could lead to the realization of this dream if they master the art of politics. They remind in this regard that their issue is not more complex than the Palestinians' issue with Israel, the Eritreans' issue with Ethiopia, or the Irish issue with the British. However, they still display a great degree of willingness to stay within Iraq and to renounce "their legitimate dream" if their wish for a federal solution is respected.

When one asks Kurds about the secret for exchanging "their current secession" from the central Iraq by a "future federalism with unclear features," they answer succinctly, "It is absolutely impossible to establish a Kurdish state before profound and fundamental democratic and structural changes occur in the Middle East, especially in the region that includes Turkey, Iran, and Iraq."

New Covenant Urged

95LH0143B London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 8 Apr 95 pp 9-10

[Article by Isma'il al-Qadiri, Iraqi politician living in Iraq: "What Kurds Need Is Elimination of Their Fears, Not a State"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No independent national entity was created for the Kurds. Rather, Kurds found themselves divided and attached to emerging entities. Psychologically and pragmatically, a Kurd had to embrace the values of loyalty to the center to which he was attached. The three centers were Ankara, Tehran, and Baghdad, plus small Kurdish groups remaining in Syria and the Soviet Union (which was formed after the Bolshevik revolution's triumph in Russia in 1917).

Before World War I, the Kurd was an Ottoman citizen and his loyalty was to Istanbul. After the war, the partition, and the annexation, the Kurd found himself a Turk, an Iranian, or an Iraqi.

In Iraq, there was no problem with the nomenclature because Iraq is the historical name for Mesopotamia and its great civilization. Therefore, an Iraqi could be an Arab, a Kurd, a Turkoman, or something else.

In Iran, Reza Khan resolved the nomenclature problem in 1924 when he replaced the name of the Persian State by the current name of Iran. Therefore, an Iranian can be a Persian, an Arab, a Kurd, or something else.

In Turkey, the national entity founded by Kamal Ataturk on the debris of the Ottoman State in Anatolia carried the name of the Turkish nation specifically. Therefore, the suppression campaigns carried out by the Turkish state against Kurds and other minorities have gone as far as calling Kurds the "mountain Turks."

In Iraq, the question of Arab-Kurdish meeting constitutes a deep dimension in the two peoples' joint history. The root and framework of this meeting is the Islamic faith (in which Kurds meet with the region's other peoples). This Kurdish-Arab meeting in Iraq has also assumed the form of growing and varied joint economic and social interests, strengthened by mixed marriages. We find, for example, that the mother of Abd-al-Karim Qasim, leader of Iraq's 1958 revolution, was a Kurd.

During the Iraqi monarchy, numerous Kurds held high state positions. Just, for example, the monarchy's last prime minister was the late Ahmad Mukhtar Baban, a member of a prominent Kurdish family, and the interior minister was the late Sa'd Qazzaz, [also a Kurd].

Kurdish participation was not confined to government affairs. Kurds also participated in open political and party life and in underground opposition parties, especially the Iraqi Communist Party. Many people from Kurdish extraction joined the Iraqi Ba'th Party and assumed leadership positions in it. The monarchy witnessed numerous armed Kurdish revolutions and rebellions.

In more than 70 years constituting the age of the current Iraqi state, the center (Baghdad) and its successive governments have tried to create a harmonious Iraqi crucible. This effort has accomplished some, but not complete, success. The center relied on faulty policies, most often inclined toward violence, as a means to solve domestic issues, some of them motivated by outside forces. The center has always disregarded the people's wish to participate in building state and social institutions through a democratic program and method. This is why we find that the Kurdish Iraqi citizen is an Iraqi of a "special kind." This is how the center views him, and this is how the Kurdish movement views itself.

Another problem that has curtailed harmony within the Iraqi crucible is that the Iraqi center has aspired since its emergence to try to crystallize Arab unity slogans and to form some sort of unity or union with other Arab countries (Egypt, Syria, Jordan). These attempts have stirred in Iraqi Kurds the fear that their role would be diminished, keeping in mind that they are a minority to start with and that they would be lost should such unity materialize between Iraq and any other Arab country.

In the republican era of the Iraqi state, the armed Kurdish movement was launched on 11 September 1961, during the reign of leader Abd-al-Karim Qasim. That movement was led by Mulla Mustafa Barzani. The 1960's witnessed four war cycles, interspersed with negotiations, accords, and cease-fire agreements.

The circumstance of the June 1967 defeat paved the way for the July 1968 military coup that led the late Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to the presidency of the republic, accompanied by Saddam Husayn and others, under the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party's banner. On the Kurdish issue, the current regime, embodied in the person of Saddam Husayn, was able, after protracted maneuvers and talks, to conclude an accord with Mulla Mustafa Barzani on 11 March 1970. That accord was concluded under an Iraqi slogan that was gradually adopted by the Iraqi political parties in wake of the July revolution—a slogan that said "democracy for Iraq and self-rule for Kurdistan."

On 16 July 1970, the provisional Iraqi constitution (which remains provisional 36 years after the monarchy's fall) was amended. The amendment explicitly spelled out the Kurdish ethnic rights to full equality and to participation in Iraqi government affairs. In the March accord, the current regime found a means to entrench its revolutionary position, especially in wake of escalating tension with the shah of Iran when he unilaterally abrogated the Shatt al-'Arab treaty in 1961, concluded between the two countries in 1937.

The Kurdish movement considered the accord a historic accomplishment for the Kurdish people and the Iraqi people in their entirety, and Kurdish leaders viewed Saddam Husayn as the "engineer" of the March accord.

The Iraqi people received the accord with support and with optimism about the onset of peace. The accord contained a specific paragraph stipulating that self-rule implementation would begin four years later; i.e., on 11 March 1974.

Significant major developments occurred at the Iraqi and regional level in those four years. The date of 11 March 1974 arrived while the Kurdish movement and the regime were polarized in a conflict with each other. The regime wanted to implement self-rule on schedule, and the Kurdish leadership insisted on a six-month postponement. War erupted between the two sides. This time, the regime fought while raising the slogan of the front, which was joined by the communist party, as we have already noted.

It was a ferocious war in which the shah's Iran threw its weight behind the Kurdish movement. Iraqi blood was spilled profusely from both sides. There were also moves behind the scenes between Iraq and Iran. On 6 March 1975, the world was surprised by the Algiers accord, which was signed by Saddam Husayn and the shah of Iran, with the blessing of the late Algerian President Houari Boumediene.

In that accord, Saddam Husayn squandered Iraq's national right to Shatt al-'Arab in the interest of the shah's Iran. Iraqi opposition parties and forces, as well as Arab forces, denounced the accord, characterizing it as treason.

In accordance with that accord, the shah of Iran withdrew his support and backing for the Iraqi Kurdish movement, which collapsed less than two days later. Mulla Mustafa Barzani and a number of his armed men departed for Iran. From there, he headed for the United States, where he stayed until he died on 1 March 1979. The others put down their weapons and turned themselves in, only to be received by the Iraqi intelligence and security agencies, which proceeded to liquidate some of them and to deport others to central and southern Iraq.

The Kurdish movement lost. Iraq lost a national right. The shah's Iran and Saddam Husayn and his regime gained.

Saddam Husayn, the March accord engineer, proceeded to "engineer" the structuring and implementation of self-rule according to his wishes. He summoned veteran Kurdish Ba'thists and new Ba'thists and entrusted them with responsibilities of the executive and legislative assemblies of the self-rule region!

If we review the circumstances of that tragic scenario and what was published about it afterward, we would find that the shah and the United States, in the person of then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, played the game, which was denounced by [Pyke's?] congressional committee that described Kissinger as being immoral in his dealings with Iraq's Kurds.

Kissinger played his game with the Kurdish movement leadership in an endeavor to contain the October war circumstances and consequences and to utilize them to serve the strategic ally, Israel.

Throughout 24 years, the slogan of "democracy for Iraq and self-rule for Kurdistan" has not encountered any real opportunity for its actual implementation in Iraq. Self-rule agencies continued to operate in the Kurdish region until the March 1991 uprising erupted. On 4 October 1992, the Kurdish parliament adopted the slogan of "federalism" as a new formula for the

Kurdish-Arab debate in Iraq, meaning that the Kurdish leadership has decided to fold away the past historical slogan [of democracy and self-rule] without a historical justification that is convincing to the other political parties that oppose the regime and that have struggled and sacrificed, and continue to struggle and sacrifice, in order to establish democracy in Iraq and apply real self-rule in Iraq's Kurdistan.

As a result of the real conditions under which the Iraqi people have been living since Saddam's defeat in the second Gulf war and his success in continuing to control power at the expense of Iraq's destruction, the national sovereignty of the State of Iraq has been diminished with the imposition of the southern and northern safety zones (latitudes 36, 32) and with the disintegration of the State of Iraq and its institutions. Moreover, the regime's foreign and domestic wars have left their serious psychological effects on the Iraqi citizen. The consequences of the international blockade to Iraqi citizens seem to complete devastation of the people's human and moral values.

This bitter reality saddles the Iraqi citizens with one task over which no other task has precedence, namely the task of rescuing Iraq, both people and government, from the backward individual and dynastic regime. The rescue effort should be made in accordance with a democratic national Iraqi program that deals with the catastrophe that has been caused and that will be left behind by this dictatorial regime. If the Iraqi people and Army succeed, and they will inevitably succeed, in ending this abnormal condition, then all the Iraqi people and their political forces will be faced with the responsibility of rearranging political life in accordance with vital interests that preserve Iraq's security and safety and that reassure Iraq's neighbors. This will be accomplished only in a united, democratic, and constitutional Iraq.

In the wake of Napoleon's final defeat in Waterloo, British Foreign Secretary (Casserly) drafted with Austrian Foreign Minister Metternich the 1815 Vienna charter for the so-called "100-year peace in Europe." In fact, that peace wasn't broken until World War I in 1914! Can Iraqi intellectuals and politicians (Arabs, Kurds, and minorities) draft an Iraqi charter that ensures peace and development for our State of Iraq for the next 100 years?

The procession will be then taken up by another generation in a new age. By then, we will have become a part of the past and of history.

Christopher Arrives; Rabin, Peres Comment

TA0806110395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival in Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the U.S. President had informed him about a positive attitude toward the political process on the part of the Syrian president, but noted that this would ultimately be tested in direct meetings between Israel and Syria.

At a welcoming ceremony for Christopher, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the U.S. secretary was coming to Israel at an important moment in the peace process and that his contribution is extremely important. Peres said that serious openings have been made in three spheres: Israel is seriously setting out on talks with the Syrians because an agreement with Syria will ensure a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Big progress has also been made with the Palestinians following the measures adopted by the Palestinian Authority to prevent terror. Minister Peres noted that it was also important to open a new chapter in our relations with Egypt, which is the most important country in the Middle East.

Rabin To Attend Summit With Mubarak, Christopher

TA0806094495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will go to Cairo tomorrow to confer with President Husni Mubarak. The meeting will also be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. [passage omitted]

Paper Reports Talks With Syria, U.S.

TA0806102895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky and Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Both Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are presenting their specific views to the US on how they envision Golan-related security arrangements in advance of military talks in the US at the end of the month, chief negotiator with Damascus Itamar Rabinovich said last night.

Sources say that until now Christopher's talks with both Rabin and al-Asad have avoided great detail when it comes to security arrangements.

Rabinovich spoke after US special coordinator Dennis Ross returned to Jerusalem after talks in Damascus. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's is to arrive at midday today.

Rabin, meanwhile, had a heated exchange with the three Labor MKs [Knesset members] backing the Golan Heights bill at yesterday's Knesset faction meeting. He said the bill calling for a special Knesset majority to approve any territorial compromise "would destroy the government's ability to make peace with Syria."

Al-Asad approved the military talks at least beginning at the level of chiefs of staff, Israeli and Egyptian officials said.

Israel and Syria agreed last week that military experts would meet in Washington, but neither side has said what the level of representation would be.

Ross was apparently the one to obtain al-Asad's approval during his talks in Damascus on Tuesday. Ross held talks with Rabin last night in preparation for Christopher's meeting with the premier this afternoon. Christopher is scheduled to visit Damascus on Saturday before returning to Jerusalem later in the day.

President Bill Clinton also phoned Rabin yesterday.

"I know that there's a meeting at the end of the month between the chiefs of staff to be held in the US," Egyptian President Husni Mubarak told reporters yesterday.

A senior Foreign Ministry official reportedly told a closed-room meeting yesterday the plan is for Gen. Hikmat al-Shihabi and Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shahaq to discuss military principles, and then have lower ranking officers discuss the finer details.

It remains unknown if Syria extracted or sought to extract a quid pro quo from Israel for its willingness to dispatch al-Shihabi, whom some have called the "number two" man in Syria.

When al-Asad dispatched al-Shihabi to the failed military talks last December, he is thought to have believed that such a move was sufficient to warrant substantive concessions by Rabin. When they were not forthcoming, al-Asad broke off the talks.

Shahaq joined Ross's meeting with Rabin last night, as did Rabinovich, OC [Officer Commanding] Military Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Uri Sagi, and Rabin's military aide Maj.-Gen. Dani Yatom. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is not part of Rabin's inner circle, met with Ross later.

Meanwhile, officials in the Prime Minister's Office say Rabin has yet to agree to a US-Egyptian proposal to attend a three-way meeting in Cairo hosted by Mubarak and attended by Christopher.

Officials say there is little enthusiasm for a meeting since it will have dubious substantive value in advancing the peace process either with the Palestinians or Syrians. There is also unhappiness that the meeting was leaked by Egypt before Israel could offer its reply.

At the Labor Knesset faction meeting, Rabin — in a heated exchange with Avigdor Qahalani, 'Imanu'el Zismann, and Ya'aqov Shefi — said the Golan Heights bill would "give the Likud a veto over the peace process."

Rabin had assumed incorrectly that the bill demanded a majority of 80 MKs to support the compromise, but even after being informed it was a 70 MKs, he was not placated.

"It just means trouble. It leaves a question mark over the peace process," he shouted.

"Tomorrow, (US Secretary of State Warren) Christopher is coming. What am I to tell him? To go ahead and set up a meeting with the (Syrian) military people? Maybe the Likud will decide whether there will be peace here or not," he said. "I am not willing to put a question mark on the peace process."

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 8 June includes a related report on p A1 by Gid'on Alon and Aluf Ben adding that Rabin also told the Labor faction: "If this bill is approved then the whole thing will be over and there will be no peace talks."]

At the end of the discussion, the faction decided that the three could submit their bill next week, but that it would enforce party discipline. the three will thus be allowed to abstain on their own bill, but not vote for or abstain on any similar bill presented by the opposition.

Despite Rabin's stand, the faction voted against stating categorically what sanctions would be taken against those who violated that discipline.

Earlier in the meeting, faction chairman Ra'anan Kohen repeated the decision taken at Monday's Labor Party convention that a Labor MK who violated party discipline would not be allowed to run in the primary elections.

Qahalani said that such a punishment is too severe. "We're not talking about a no-confidence vote here or about toppling the government. This is a preliminary reading of a bill." He repeated that he is not willing to abstain or oppose his own bill.

Rabin Reveals Content of Clinton Phone Call

TA0806094095 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Jun 95 pp 1, 16

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An optimistic atmosphere surrounds the negotiations to bring about a political arrangement between Israel and Syria.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday told YEDI'OT AHARONOT about his phone conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton. Rabin said President Clinton phoned him yesterday and briefed him on the phone conversation he held with President al-Asad earlier in the week. Clinton told Rabin: "I have never heard Syrian President al-Asad so optimistic about the prospects for an arrangement with Israel as he was during our conversation this week."

Rabin noted that in the past Clinton has also briefed him about his contacts with al-Asad, but yesterday was the first time the U.S. President was so categorical about the matter. "I do not know if we will eventually reach an agreement with Syria. The negotiations are still ahead of us, but it is a fact that for the first time the U.S. President found al-Asad optimistic about an arrangement with Israel," Rabin told YEDI'OT AHARONOT. [passage omitted]

Sarid on Syrian Track, Talks With Palestinians

TA0706131695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has denied reports of secret talks between Israel and Syria. The London-based newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT says the secret talks took place over the last few weeks in a number of European capitals. The paper said significant progress had been made. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] In Jerusalem, officials insist the American-mediated talks with Syria are the only game in town. This is Minister Yosi Sarid after this morning's cabinet meeting:

[Sarid] I wish it was true, but unfortunately this piece of information is totally groundless. There is only one channel of negotiations with the Syrians, and this channel is known: It's under the auspices of the Americans, fortunately or unfortunately, and this is the only track.

[Ze'ev] In terms of the American mediation, do we know that the Syrians are ready to resume the military talks on the level of the chiefs of staff of each country participating?

[Sarid] Well, this particular fact will be known when the Americans will be back in Israel after their talks in Damascus. But this is our wish, but anyhow the negotiations will be held by high-ranking military officers, and this is a good sign for the very soon future.

[Ze'ev] U.S. envoy Dennis Ross is due back in Israel late this afternoon after talks not only in Damascus, but also Cairo, where a potential three-way Mubarak-Rabin-Christopher meeting Friday [9 June] in the Egyptian capital is being worked on. Minister Sarid also referred to the Israeli decision to go ahead with negotiations on all areas of Palestinian local rule in the West Bank, instead of only the eight areas originally agreed to by Israel in the current negotiations:

[Sarid] This is the time to negotiate about the whole spheres of authorities, powers, and responsibilities. It's not very much advisable to negotiate about one sphere or another. After all, with the one exception — one very significant exception, and this is the security matters — the whole other spheres will be anyhow sooner or later transferred to the Palestinian Authority, and this is the time to start negotiating about it.

[Ze'ev] By July 1st we will be moving ahead in terms of redeployment, in terms of planning the elections?

[Sarid] Well, hopefully we will conclude the negotiations not later than the 1st of July. I can't promise that the 1st of July will be the last date, but the 1st of July we'll have the whole picture of the agreements and the understandings which have been achieved between us and the Palestinians, and probably we'll need an additional week or two to conclude everything. [end recording]

Rabin: Golan Bill Means Likud Veto, No Peace

TA0706124795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that passing the bill fortifying the Golan Law means granting the Likud a veto right on the peace process. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that, speaking at a session of the Labor Knesset caucus, Rabin said that if the bill is passed, he would not know what to tell U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher about the officers' meeting in Washington. If we allow the Likud to decide what the result will be, there will be no peace.

Labor, Likud Changes Seen Leading to 'Nightmare Regime'

TA0706134295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jun 95 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Autocracy Is Here"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One marginal debate demonstrated one of the most salient symbols of this week's events in the Likud and Labor. Two light thrusts by Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres sufficed to repel the demand to discuss the law for the direct election of prime minister. This important issue, which had been raised by Yosi Beilin, was promptly discarded. It was an inevitable defeat, however. The primary political issue at the Labor and Likud conventions was the entrenchment of the autocratic status of the parties leaders' and of the one who will be elected prime minister.

The "Bi-bi, Bi-bi" shouts sounded more piercing than similar chants in the Begin era — because the elected prime minister will wield powers unprecedented in Israel due to the direct-elections law. His power will be even greater than that wielded by the last local autocrat, David Ben-Gurion. The worrisome dynamics of a new Israeli regime began working full steam this week.

Perhaps inadvertently and in spite of his bitter rebellion, David Levi has also consistently addressed Netanyahu as if the chairman were the lord of the manor. He knows that the chief battle will be waged mainly over the chit Israelis will put in the ballot box when they come to elect their leader, and not their party. Rabin's "I shall steer" phrase of two and a half years ago will pale in comparison with the narcissism that will dominate our political arena hereafter.

This trend is intrinsically logical in view of the budding new parties, which are weaving ambitions and creating rifts. A Levi party, a Russian party, the Third Way, a possible Hayim Ramon party, a rift in SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and less Arab votes for the Jewish parties — all these are liable to smash the political map so badly that, it seems, only a prime minister enjoying broad support would be able to even it out.

This is not an argument in favor of direct elections. Perhaps the opposite is true: A split Knesset, with a variety of swing factions and a possible majority for the opposition, will make for a nightmare regime.

We learned this week that this is very much the situation at the top of the two major parties. Netanyahu was not particularly alarmed by Levi's threats, because whatever votes he takes from the party, he will be unable to do much damage to the results of the direct elections. Labor, for its part, has tacitly and courteously acknowledged the fact that, with the growing split, its bread is buttered on the side of strong personal leadership.

Does anyone still remember the Alignment's comical "beehive," whose awful graphics depicted a string of figures peeping out of the honeycomb cavities in the 1969 and 1973 elections? Would anyone stand for such an electoral proposal today? The entire partisan system is now based on a single face (two at most, as in Labor) per party. The leading politicians' growing power is naturally one of the causes for the division. The egos of Levi and Ramon cannot stand Netanyahu and Rabin's exclusive power, and a group that does present a different political stand (the Third Way) cannot live with the political decisions dictated by the Labor leaders.

Thus, a tendency to build up the muscle of leaders is the most overwhelming aspect of this week's commotion. And it already makes us uneasy. Even those who doubt the veracity of Levi's and his followers' plaintive motifs may be dismayed by Netanyahu's haughty style. As for Rabin, he has repeatedly proved that his solo methods incur considerable damage. There is, however, one important disparity — in addition to other dissimilarities — between the two men.

Rabin enjoys almost unchallenged party support. He is spearheading a political move which, despite his harmful vacillations, seeks to achieve a vital objective. His quarrel with Peres has evolved into productive cooperation. And Netanyahu is vague about his national outlook.

The assistance he had from top Likud echelons was granted grudgingly and to the accompaniment of silent grunts of dissatisfaction. And he has experienced only some of the trials that await him along his future path. For instance, Dan Meridor scored better than he has in public opinion polls against Rabin this month. Can anyone vouch that, having put his party in order, he will not be challenged by other Likud stars?

This week's events strengthened the leaders and unpleasantly sharpened the style of the battle for power. The buds of a very problematic political regime were enhanced this week. This week was, however, helpful to the undecided to make up their minds on who deserves to be in charge of that regime.

Palestinian Escorts for Gaza Jewish Drivers Demanded

TA0806054395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has demanded that Israeli Jews entering the Gaza Strip with their cars coordinate their moves with and be escorted by the Palestinian Police. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen points out that there is no agreement to this effect with the Palestinians, and that the Palestinian Police have rejected the IDF's demands to escort Israelis driving in the Gaza Strip.

Attorney Tamar Peleg, who filed a petition with the High Court of Justice concerning the new procedures, saying people are being hassled and their rights are being violated. According to her, Israeli women who are married to Gazans and live there are obliged to obtain an entry permit each time they return from a visit in Israel. IDF sources say that the new procedures are being enforced for security reasons and that efforts are being made to ease the process.

Palestinians To Receive Aid at Earlier Date

TA0806104195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The finance minister announced today in the Knesset that the government has decided to transfer aid — $25 million over the next five years — to the Palestinians earlier than scheduled. Minister Shohat explained that most of this sum will be used to build an industrial park near the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the finance minister was replying to a parliamentary query.

The Knesset Finance Committee approved the allocation of 245 million shekels as an advance payment to finance the army's redeployment in Judaea and Samaria, and committed itself to another 300 million shekels in the future. Our correspondent Eytan Almog reports that the committee approved the allocation yesterday, but at the opposition's request it voted on the issue again today.

Right-Wing MK's on Plans To Disrupt Interim Arrangement

TA0806095195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] Tzahi Hanegbi said that if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] evacuates the boot camps in Judaea and Samaria within the framework of the interim arrangement these would be manned by armed volunteers. Interviewed by our correspondent Dalya Ya'iri, Hanegbi said that a special command has started to gather volunteers and that further measures to thwart the implementation of the interim arrangement would be discussed today in a rally to be held in Alfey Menashe.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 8 June adds: "Tzomet MK Moshe Peled said today that if the IDF does not defend them, Israel's citizens will defend themselves. Interviewed by our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich, MK Peled said that there are lists of names of many volunteers with cars, cellular phones, and beepers who are registered with the Hashomer organization, whose purpose is to provide security to the Jews in Eretz Yisra'el if the IDF fails to do so.

["Responding to Peled's remarks, Meretz MK Avraham Poraz said that Israel is a lawful state. He stressed that there is no way phalanges will form here or people will take the law into their own hands.

["Labor Secretary Nisim Zvili told our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar that the plans of the right wing and the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to disrupt the implementation of the interim arrangement are consciously or unconsciously pushing Israel into a civil war."]

IDF Evacuates Outpost in Tulkarm Area Village

TA0806103195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has evacuated an outpost in the village of 'Illar in the Tulkarm area. Villagers told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the outpost and the equipment in it were removed last night. The outpost was built five years ago, and a representation from the Civil Administration operated in it until two years ago.

Ground Forces Commander on IDF Training, Challenges

TA0806113495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "Today's battle is for routine security along the borders and against terror, not a conventional war, which I cannot see developing in the region," OC [Officer Commanding] Ground Forces Command Maj.-Gen. Ze'ev Livne said yesterday.

"The Ground Forces Command is developing new doctrines and equipment to meet the challenges of routine security in southern Lebanon and the territories. We train more than we did during the intifada years," Livne said.

He disclosed that command has developed a multi-year training program for reserve forces, that highlights a biennial full training session. In off years, only commanders would exercise, thus alleviating the reserve service burden.

Livne was speaking to officer cadets following a combined "capabilities demonstration" at 'Uvda in the Negev. The cadets are from the command's four components: armor, artillery, infantry, and combat engineering. The demonstration precedes an intensive two-week training session in which the cadets will practice planning, commanding, and executing combined operations.

The demonstration, Livne said, is an excellent application of the lessons learned during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

"Until then, every corps had its agenda, its own doctrine, and its exclusive version of how to win a battle. Only after the 1973 war was the concept of a combined battlefield developed. What we saw today is the professional implementation of a two-tier concept: excellence in executing your corps' functional role and excellence in combining the forces," Livne said.

Livne also revealed that by 1997 a new computer-controlled training system that simulates a two-side battle would be integrated into the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The system is based on one used at the US Army National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, California.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 8 June carries a report by military correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami, who quotes Livne as saying that "despite the peace process the army must maintain its high-level capabilities if only to continue serving as a powerful deterrent to anyone contemplating war. He pointed out that even now the IDF is still engaged in a daily war against terror from Lebanon, as well as in the territories. His command, he said, is investing greater efforts and budget in dealing with the challenges. Consequently, regular training and the development and acquisition of sophisticated weaponry for the IDF's field units remain a high priority and are being satisfactorily pursued. Gen. Livne added he sees no real drop in the motivation of either soldiers or their officers to train or to fight when needed. Looking at possible developments and progress in regional peace efforts. Gen. Livne does not see any need at this time to change the IDF's present battle doctrine or overall direction, but this will be required once Israel achieves peace with all its neighbors."]

Defense Ministry Official Returns From Talks in Poland

TA0806114695 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by On Levi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cooperation has started between the Israeli and Polish defense ministries. Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri returned yesterday from a visit to Poland, during which he held a series of talks with his hosts on the peace process, Middle East and European events, and bilateral issues.

During the visit 'Ivri held meetings with the Polish defense minister, chief of staff, and senior officers and officials in the Polish Army and Defense Ministry. 'Ivri's visit to Poland comes in the wake of the Polish defense minister's visit to Israel in April 1994.

During that visit the Polish minister and Prime Minister Rabin signed a cooperation agreement between both countries' defense ministries. The two also decided to set up joint working groups in both ministries and to hold regular meetings to discuss cooperation between the military industries of both countries.

Kohl Supports New EU-Israel Cooperation Agreement

AU0706143495 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 7 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by "eli": "Kohl Advocates New Cooperation Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — At the next EU summit, Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl wants to advocate better access to the community for Israel and dismantle trade barriers. As the highlight of his political talks in Jerusalem, Kohl assured Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Tuesday [6 June] that he would advocate a new cooperation agreement between the EU and Israel. Before that, Kohl visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and said: "It would be bad for us to forget. But it would also be bad only to look back and waste the future."

Rabin made it clear that he was greatly interested in close partnership between his country and the EU. Kohl assured him that he would advocate a new cooperation agreement at the EU summit in Cannes in three weeks. The EU is at odds as to what extent it should facilitate Israel's access to its agricultural market. Kohl also endorsed closer cooperation in the area of science and technology and promised access to European projects. Rabin hinted that he was interested in a development bank for the Middle East. Under the impression of its experience with the East European bank, however, the German side reacted rather cautiously.

The politicians obviously widely avoided the issue of development aid. The continued transfer of 140 million marks in German funds per year to Israel has come under fire because the country no longer meets the promotion criteria. However, Rabin hinted that he could support the German idea of earmarking the funds for regional projects in connection with the peace process in the future. Volkswagen head Ferdinand Piech signed a cooperation agreement with an Israeli company for a joint magnesium plant with an investment volume of about $600 million.

Right at the beginning of his visit, Rabin confronted Kohl with Germany's past, pointing out that many old wounds were bursting open again in connection with the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. Yet, he then also appealed to look ahead and emphasized that Germany was playing a special role in its relations with Israel. Kohl also recalled the "terrible deeds that were committed against the Jewish people in the name of Germany." Kohl added that the "lessons learnt from the despotic rule now belong to the German democracy's self-image."

In their talks, Rabin and Kohl discussed the state of the Middle East peace process. Both men spoke of a critical stage. If the peace process would not make any progress now, the atmosphere could change right round leading to a radicalization of the region. Kohl emphasized that the Germans could not want that since the effects of a new fundamentalism would be felt even in Europe.

Kohl left no doubts about his support for Rabin, who has come under increasing pressure at home due to his peace policy. Kohl said that there was no alternative to the peace process, and praised Rabin as being wise and courageous. Rabin, in turn, noted that he was determined to stick to the timetable for the peace process and, thus, to initiate the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the autonomous territories.

Yet, at the same time he also described his problems: In the Palestinian areas there was no authorized police administration and no law on the right to possess arms. The establishment of militia was easy, and terrorism was not subsiding. Both politicians indicated that they saw PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat as the only authority that could promote the process on the Palestinian side.

Kohl, Rabin Hold Joint News Conference

TA0806110795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Wrapping up his visit in Israel, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said that reports about the special relations between his country and Iran are distorted. There are no special relations, Kohl said, quite the contrary. He pointed out that Germany is firmly fighting the neo-Nazis, as evidenced by the fact that unlike the case in other European countries the extreme right-wing parties received few votes in Germany. Kohl stressed Germany's and the EU's commitment to the peace process in the Middle East.

In the joint news conference with Kohl, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel is prepared to engage in any kind of negotiations in order to attain a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, but that the first stage must be peace agreements. This was reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 8 June adds: "Both leaders described the bilateral relations as excellent and the current visit by the chancellor as very successful. Prime Minister Rabin referred to the visit as a landmark trip."

[The report goes on to say that "Chancellor Kohl said he understands the difficulty of the Middle East peace process, but believes that there is no alternative to peace, social stability, and development, and stressed that the terrorists must not be given a chance to destroy the process. He said that everything that happens here in the Middle East has a direct and significant role on Europe. Peace and stability in the Middle East also mean greater and stability in Europe, and this is the message he will be taking back to other European leaders."]

Hebron 'Terrorist' Given Life Sentence

TA0706144095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hebron military court today handed down a life sentence to terrorist 'Arafat al-Natshah, a member of the Hebron Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squad that had four of its members killed recently. He was convicted of participating in terror attacks in which three Jews were murdered.

Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that the court also sentenced terrorist Harun Mansur to 30 years in prison, after convicting him of taking part in a terror attack in which reserve soldier Shmu'el Geresh was murdered in the Cave of the Patriarchs two and a half years ago. The prosecution demanded that he be given life and announced it will appeal the sentence.

Crown Prince Meets Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz on Sanctions

JN0706161395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz at his office in the Royal Hashemite Court this morning. The Iraqi deputy prime minister briefed his highness on his latest talks at the United Nations in New York on the continuing international sanctions imposed on Iraq.

'Aziz also briefed His Highness Prince Hasan on the results of the latest visit to Iraq by special UN envoy Rolf Ekeus and on what Iraq intends to discuss in the Security Council session on Iraq which is scheduled to be held in New York on 19 June.

'Aziz said Iraq hopes that the Security Council will take into consideration the prevailing situation in the country and lift the embargo.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad al-Saqqaf, special adviser to his highness the crown prince, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Joint Council Created With Palestinian Businessmen

JN0806082895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Jun 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen on Wednesday decided to form a joint council for cooperation and coordination between them and called on concerned authorities to speed up the process of adopting investment related laws.

At the end of a three-day conference that grouped more than 400 Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen, conferees agreed to form a joint council to follow up recommendations and decisions taken by participants and to prepare plans for the next conference that will take place in Jerusalem next year.

The conference, which was held upon the initiative of the Jordanian Businessmen Association also adopted several recommendations that mainly concentrated on the need to initiate joint projects.

Participants agreed on the need to establish a free zone in the Jordan Valley, initiate joint commercial exhibitions and activate trade between the two countries. The recommendations also called for giving priority to Jordanian and Palestinian companies while awarding infrastructure projects.

The recommendations stressed the need for the establishment of a joint cement factory, a petroleum refinery and joint investment in salt extraction from the Dead Sea. They also noted the need for the unification of standards and measures as well as the establishment of scientific research centres.

The recommendations called for meetings between Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen who invest in the same field.

They also called for the establishment of a joint company for land transport.

Participants agreed on the establishment of a joint company to market agricultural products.

All recommendations are expected to be presented to His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

On Tuesday, King Husayn stressed Jordan's support and commitment to the private sector.

In a meeting with representatives of the conference on Tuesday, the King reassured investors of Jordan's will to implement all decisions taken and promises given during a meeting on May 24. At that meeting, King Husayn and President 'Arafat promised Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen that they would support all endeavours to improve the living standards of the people in the region.

During a dinner on Tuesday, Mohammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, Palestinian minister of finance, echoed the Palestinian Authority's support for the private sector.

Development Group Recommends 'Urgent' Projects

JN0706195095 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 7 Jun 95

[From the "News At Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Delegates to a Middle East economic development conference in Amman recommended approval of urgent regional transport projects including rail networks, roads, ports, and cooperation in civil aviation. The working group is one of five multilateral committees set up to tackle economic and other regional issues such as refugees, the environment, and arms control.

The conference drew participants from Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Egypt, as well as representatives from the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe, and the World Bank. The delegates recommended the building of roads, bridges, and rail links between Jordan, Palestine, Israel, and Egypt.

During the conference, Jordanian and Palestinian delegates coordinated for increased cooperation in civil aviation, including starting air flights and cooperation in training and the use of airports.

The participants called for a follow-up of development plans for the Jordan Rift valley and the Gulf of al-'Aqabah.

President al-Hirawi's Visit to Paris Reported

Talks With Chirac Detailed

NC0706174495 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Jun 95

[Report by correspondent Andre 'Aziz Muhawij in Paris]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has left Paris to return to Beirut following a visit of few hours to France, accompanied by seven ministers. During the visit, President al-Hirawi met privately for half an hour with French President Jacques Chirac. The two presidents were later joined by the two foreign ministers.

President al-Hirawi briefed President Chirac on Lebanon's views on the peace process and developments in the region, particularly with respect to the implementation of the international resolutions, especially Resolution 425. The Lebanese president informed the French president of Lebanon's pledge to stop the resistance operations and not to fire a single shot toward Israel should the latter withdraw from all Lebanese territory.

Speaking to Lebanese reporters at the Lebanese Embassy in Paris following the luncheon hosted in his honor by President Chirac, President al-Hirawi added that Lebanon has never declared war on Israel; instead, it was Israel who has invaded Lebanon twice. The Lebanese president underlined the close historic links between Lebanon and France as well as the cultural, educational, and francophone ties between the two countries. He added that he briefed his French counterpart on the progress in Lebanon under the present regime in terms of security, stability, the disbanding of militias, and the unification of the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

In his closed meeting with President Chirac, President al-Hirawi discussed bilateral cooperation, France's role in rebuilding Lebanon, and his decision to take part in the Barcelona conference for European-Mediterranean dialogue. The Lebanese and French foreign ministers later joined the meeting. The discussion dealt with the financial cooperation and protocols Foreign Minister Buwayz had agreed on with [then foreign minister] Alain Juppe during Buwayz' visit to the EU headquarters in Brussels in March, particularly since France still holds the EU presidency.

For his part, Foreign Minister Buwayz has stated that although discussions during the visit focused primarily on political issues, they opened the door for an exchange of views on other issues. Buwayz stressed that progress was made regarding the arrangements for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He added that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, which begins tomorrow, will crystallize this progress and will be crowned by the so-called document of understanding on these arrangements. At that time, groups of military experts will be asked to draft a plan for implementing these arrangements. Buwayz expected that after that, progress would be made on the other tracks, including the Lebanese-Israeli tracks. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi on Israel, Withdrawal

JN0706195995 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1740 GMT 7 Jun 95

[Statement by President Ilyas al-Hirawi to Paris Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Kamal Tarabayh in Paris on 7 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] I paid this brief visit to Paris at the invitation of His Excellency President Jacques Chirac. I expressed a desire to make this visit during a telephone contact to congratulate him after he was elected. [passage omitted]

Lebanon did not declare war on Israel; it was Israel who invaded Lebanon twice. The first time was in 1972 when the Security Council issued Resolution 425, which was proposed by the United States. We thank the United States for what it did, but we will be more grateful when this resolution is implemented. In the second time, Israel invaded the Lebanese territories until its forces reached Beirut. At that time, Beirut and the rest of the Lebanese territory alone waged resistance. The Israeli forces withdrew from only a part of Lebanon, while a dear part is still under occupation. Therefore, all of us are strugglers to liberate this occupied part whether peacefully — that is why we went to Madrid to attend the conference — or through resistance, which is our right.

I informed President Chirac on the eve of his visit to the United States and on the eve of the G-7 summit that Lebanon — president, government, people, and deputies — pledges not to fire one single shot toward the internationally-recognized border between Lebanon and Israel should the latter withdraw from the Lebanese territory. We set this condition on ourselves and our army will be fully ready to implement it. Security will then prevail because we will achieve our objectives.

Regarding the other issues, I would like to be clear and frank. Yes, we received Palestinian refugees 50 years ago. Following the al-Ta'if accord, it has become clear that Lebanon cannot accept settlement of people on its territory. This is because Lebanon's area is a little bit more than 10,000 square km. Following the agreement reached by Mr. Yasir 'Arafat without the cordon states' knowledge, the Palestinians in the diaspora, outside the occupied territory and outside Gaza and Jericho, can be given Palestinian nationality. Then, they can spread throughout the world, knowing that there are more than 12 million Lebanese living throughout the world. No Lebanese can accept any settlement activities in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Regarding peace between Lebanon and Israel, I would to like to state for the last time that Lebanon will be the last party to sign a peace treaty with Israel and will be the last Arab country to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. Enough showing off [kafana an natabaha nahnu juzu' min al-'alam al-'arabi]. We are part of the Arab world; we are bridge between East and West and between Middle East countries. We will wait for the others. We are the smallest country, however, we are not the smallest in terms of history and culture. We know full well the status of our relations with the Arab countries and the other Middle East countries.

On this occasion, I invited President Chirac and his wife to visit Lebanon and he welcomed the invitation. I hope he will set a date for this visit in the near future to welcome him during the rest of my term.

A conference for Mediterranean countries will be held in Barcelona on 23 November. Lebanon and Syria are determined to attend this conference, and I informed President Chirac of this matter. This conference is not within the framework of the multilateral talks which are held between Israel and some states. This is an international conference just like the UN meetings. We will attend with all our power and we have reached this understanding with sisterly Syria on this.

Al-Hirawi on Signing Accord With Israel

NC0806070795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Jun 95

[News conference by President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the Lebanese Embassy in Paris on 7 June—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] I made this short visit in response to a kind invitation from French President Jacques Chirac. I had expressed a desire for such a visit when I telephoned him to congratulate him on his election as president. The purpose of this visit was of course to congratulate him in the name of Lebanon, the Lebanese Government, the Chamber of Deputies, and all the Lebanese people. Lebanon has old ties with France. Some believe these ties date back to the era of the French mandate in Lebanon. Let it be known that these ties date back to the time before the mandate by many years.

During our private talks I briefed President Chirac on Lebanon's achievements during my era in the fields of stability and security, the disbanding of the militias, and the reunification of our armed forces. However, all the Lebanese, including the president, his government, and the Chamber of Deputies, are sad because a dear part of Lebanon in the south and western al-Biqa' is still occupied by the Israeli enemy. They blame us because we have a resistance. France is the only state which appreciates the meaning of resistance. We are all strugglers to liberate this part, whether by peaceful means—and that is why we attended the Madrid conference— or whether by resistance means, which is our right.

Prior to his departure for the United States and ahead of the industrial states conference in Canada, I informed President Chirac that Lebanon—president, government, people, and deputies—pledges that in the event Israel withdraws from Lebanese territory, not a single shot will be fired toward the internationally recognized borders between Lebanon and Israel. This is a Lebanese promise which we take upon ourselves and which we are fully prepared to implement through our army. Security will then prevail because we will have achieved our goal.

Regarding other issues, I want to be frank and clear. Yes, we have hosted Palestinian refugees for 50 years. However, our Constitution following the al-Ta'if Accord frankly states that Lebanon cannot accept the settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon. At present, we are proud of the security we have. I take this occasion to state that although there is a U.S. ban on travel to Americans, I must say that during the recent visit by some U.S. Congress officials of Lebanese origin, one of the visitors said he found security in Lebanon better than the security he found in Washington. In a short day an average of five murders and 10 crimes are committed in Washington, while in Lebanon, despite all the disasters that have befallen us and the war of others on our land, we see that security prevails.

President Chirac expressed his deep affection for Lebanon. All Arab officials who have met with him have asked him to help Lebanon. President Chirac promised that he will play an active role in the EU as France was active when the EU unanimously issued a resolution in Brussels expressing support for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. I have also requested from him that the European countries play an active role and not only adopt an observer stand in the Middle East. We do not want to neglect the U.S. role but at the same time we want to have the support of the European countries for the implementation of Resolution 425 calling for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Regarding peace between us and Israel, I want to clarify for the last time: Lebanon will be the last state to sign a peace agreement with Israel. Lebanon will the last Arab state to have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Sunni Mufti Protests Shiite Processions in Beirut

NC0806075995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 1530 GMT on 5 June 1995 reports the following: "Mount Lebanon Mufti Shaykh Muhammad 'Ali al-Juzu has asked the Interior Minister to ban the processions that are of a provocative and religious character and to prevent ceremonies in Beirut's public gardens because it has not been the custom to hold such ceremonies in Beirut."

Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic at 0530 GMT on 8 June carries reports on ceremonies and processions held in various Lebanese areas on 'Ashura day on which Shiites celebrate the anniversary of the Karbala' battle in which al-Husayn Bin-'Ali Bin- Abu-Talib fell fighting against Caliph Yazid Bin-Mu'awyiah on 10 Muharram 61 after Hegira, corresponding to 10 October 680 AD. Reporting on a speech by Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah in Harat Hurayk in Beirut's Southern Suburb on 7 June, the radio, which is the mouthpiece of Hizballah, quotes Nasrallah as saying: "This year we are witnessing an unjustified uproar over 'Ashura." Nasrallah affirmed that "this year was the best in regards to organization, cooperation, and coordination with all parties that hold al-Husayni councils." The radio then gives a four-minute recording of Nasrallah's speech in which he praises the "master of martyrs" al-Husayn Bin-'Ali. Nasrallah thanks all those who have organized religious ceremonies on this occasion. He then adds: "We also apologize to anyone who was annoyed by us during these nights. God willing, every day will remain 'Ashura and every land will remain Karbala'." Hizballah radio then says: "Hizballah has called for participation in two processions on 10th Muharram, corresponding to today, Thursday. The two processions will be held in the Southern Suburb and Beirut. The first procession will set out from Imam al-Rida mosque in Bi'r al-Abd at 1000 today. The second procession will set out from al-Ghul School in Fathallah Street."

Ross: 'Extremely Good' Talks Held With Staff Chief

JN0706162895 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1605 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 7 Jun (SANA) — Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, has given an exclusive statement to the Syrian Arab News Agency in which he said:

"We had an opportunity to hold extremely good talks with Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Syrian Army, yesterday evening and this morning."

He added: "We have exchanged viewpoints on issues related to security arrangements and dealt with them in detail. I believe that we have had a very good start."

Radio Reports Rabin Denial of Secret Talks

JN0706125595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Occupied Palestine — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin categorically denied all that is being said and published on secret talks between Israelis and Syrians. Rabin's denial came at the extraordinary cabinet session this morning.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also denied these reports, as well as Yosi Sarid, minister of environmental protection, in interviews to the Israeli Army radio this morning.

Press Commends U.S. Efforts To Promote Peace Talks

JN0806074195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Indications and Facts," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: There is no denying that there has recently been many positive indications that came about on the heels of the Syrian-Israeli understanding on security arrangements. However, it remains to be said that true progress in the peace process is contingent upon the practical implementation of the principles enshrined in this understanding. The implementation of these principles must result in a complete Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders. The premise of complete withdrawal in exchange for full peace is a golden rule that has to be honored under all circumstances. This is because the dispute has always been over territory. Peace is the antithesis of occupation, injustice, and usurpation. Peace cannot coexist with the continued occupation of the territory or any part of it.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel must now, more than ever before, show goodwill. This is because only when it commits itself to the principle of complete withdrawal and works to implement the framework of principles on security arrangements, observing the principles of equality [tasawi], parallelism [tawazi], and equitability [takafu'] on both sides of the 4 June 1967 borders, will true progress in the peace process become a concrete reality, and peace become close at hand.

For its part, the newspaper AL-BA'TH in its editorial today commends U.S. efforts as cosponsor of the peace talks, saying: The remarkable U.S. efforts made in the aftermath of the announcement of an agreement on a set of understandings on security arrangements on the Syrian track of negotiations reflect the extreme importance the U.S. attaches to talks on the Syrian track and to an agreement on this track.

AL-BA'TH adds: The U.S. has repeatedly confirmed its commitment to the cause of achieving a just and comprehensive peace grounded in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions. This welcome U.S. commitment has given rise to generally positive expectations derived from the fact that the U.S., as cosponsor, is playing a vigorous role in the peace process and is providing a vibrant mechanism for this process, one that was largely missing in the past.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: It is public knowledge that the United States is the international party that is most capable of persuading Israeli rulers to comply with the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy. Given the special relationship it is maintaining with Israel, and the aid and support it extends to Israel, the United States can make Israeli rulers walk the path conducive to compliance with the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy.

U.S. Efforts Urged To Counter Israeli Peace 'Hurdles'

JN0706144895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: A new round of intensive U.S. activity has gotten under way to advance the peace process. We can say that some statements by senior Israeli officials do not call for optimism about the progress made so far regarding the understanding on a framework for security arrangements. It is true that some of the statements of Israeli officials show reason and understanding and call for optimism about the possibility of fast progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, and consequently, the Lebanese-Israeli track. It is equally true, however, that some of these statements still create many obstacles to real progress in the peace process.

No one doubts the importance of what has been achieved regarding the understanding on security arrangements as a step on the road for progress in the peace process. No one also doubts that this step is not enough in itself. It is one of many steps which are more important, and which deal with the rest of the aspects and requirements of peace. The basis is Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon.

In addition to the unambiguous Israeli acknowledgement that the Golan is Syrian territory, some Israeli statements still refer to a partial withdrawal, talk about a referendum on the Golan, and speak about what Israel calls the depth of withdrawal. These statements could place more hurdles in the path of concrete progress. Apparently, there is a need for more U.S. efforts to establish the foundations of peace and proceed from them toward the required progress and achieve a just and comprehensive peace that restores the territory to its owners.

U.S. diplomacy has resumed its active efforts, stemming from the U.S. commitment toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. This diplomacy has to do a great deal to achieve the desired objective. Syria is proceeding sincerely on the path of peace, in line with its strategic decision to restore its territory and national rights. Therefore, it has not stopped cooperating with, and responding to, all efforts, especially U.S. efforts, to advance the peace process. Israel, however, is still playing with words and evading the principle of full withdrawal. The statements of its officials about non-withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 line present the most difficult point of disagreement. This is because Syria is not concerned with proposals that prejudice its right to its full territory and complete sovereignty over its national soil.

There is no doubt that the United States should make tremendous efforts to settle this disagreement in order to proceed toward a new stage that is built on the stage of understanding on the security arrangements. This way, it will be possible to talk about clear, sure, and concrete progress. It will not be possible to speak about real progress without Israel quitting its proposals about partial withdrawals. This is because full withdrawal remains a prelude to complete peace — the peace of the brave — which Syria has called and worked for and for which it has responded to all efforts.

The tour of the U.S. coordinator for the peace process, Dennis Ross, and the tour of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will play a major role in bringing about tangible progress if Israeli intentions are good and if an understanding on the implementation of the security framework is achieved. This framework should guarantee equality [al-tasawi], equitability [al-takafu'], and parallelism [al-tawazi] on both sides of the 4 June 1967 borders. Ross and Christopher will find a positive response from Syria, but without infringing on the constants of the national and pan-Arab position that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the will of the international community to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and build a safe and stable future in the region.

Afghanistan

President Rabbani Receives Sudanese Delegation

LD0506203495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press office of the presidency reported to BAKHTAR that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani this afternoon received in Golkhana Palace a state delegation and representatives of the aid agencies of Sudan headed by Dr. Ahmad Yasin. During the meeting President Rabbani expressed gratitude for the service the agencies rendered in the fields of education, health, and others during the the jihad years. The esteemed president stated the military-political situation of the country after the victory of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan and said: the war that has been imposed on the mojahedin people of Afghanistan over the past three years has not been a civil war but the self-seeking foreign hands were involved in it. President Rabbani said: Now that by the grace of God peace and security have been ensured in the country, the opportunity for the country's reconstruction has come about, and it is the moral duty of all Muslims and aid agencies to help our people to reconstruct ruined Afghanistan.

The delegation stated their full readiness to move their agencies' offices from Pakistan to Kabul and to participate in the our country's reconstruction.

Taleban Starts 'Operations,' Seeks Dostam Alliance

LD0706163895 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Birjand, Khorasan Prov., June 7, IRNA — Talebans in Afghanistan have started new provocative operations against the state forces, informed sources said here on Wednesday [7 June]. Talebans intend to cooperate with leader of the movement 'Abdol-Rashid Dostam, the source said.

On the other hand, the state forces have taken steps to gain the general consent of the leader of National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan. They gave no details of the moves taken by the two sides for nearing themselves to Dostam.

Government Forces Repulse Dostam Militia Attack

LD0606180795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack by Dostam's militia was defeated today around Konduz Province.

A responsible source reports to the BAKHTAR military correspondent that the Dostam militia launched an attack this morning on the positions of the mojahedin and Islamic Army forces from two directions around Konduz Province. The enemy was forced to retreat after sustaining heavy loss of life. During this attack four militiamen were killed and some others were injured. Six militiamen were captured by the mojahedin and Islamic Army forces.

According to another report, another attack by the militiaman, launched from the direction of Jelowgir hills, Baghlan Province, was repulsed. During this attack, two militiamen were killed and one enemy tank was destroyed. Four strong positions of the militiamen were captured by the mojahedin.

Government Forces Ambush Dostam Armored Column

LD0706170895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Sukhoy warplane of the Dostam militia was shot down today in Khenjan [northern Salang] and an armored convoy of the enemy was totally destroyed. Reports reaching the Bakhtar Information Agency say that this morning the Dostam militia mounted an unsuccessful offensive which was defeated as a result of the bravery of the Islamic army units, with the attackers suffering heavy losses. About noon today a Sukhoy aircraft of the Dostam militia which was aiming to bomb the Khenjan area was shot down by the Islamic army's warplanes. The fate of the aeroplane's pilot, Mohammad Yaqub, is thus far unknown.

The mojahedin and the Islamic army forces set ablaze an armored convoy belonging to Dostam along the Khenjan road in an ambush, and totally destroyed it. Ten armored vehicles and tanks which were seeking to attack the positions of the mojahedin were destroyed. Dozens of the militia were also killed when the convoy was destroyed. Thus far no information has been received about the precise number of casualties.

India

Minister Interviewed on U.S., International Issues

BK0806070995 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Jun 95 p 15

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi June 6 — India has once again urged the United States "to satisfy yourself" on the export controls and safeguards that are being exercised, "which, to our mind, are quite satisfactory", while considering the transfer of dual purpose technology. "But they have their concerns," external affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee told The Times of India News Service in an interview on June 2

On Kashmir Mr Mukherjee said: "I have no reason to believe that the Clinton Administration has any reservations about our plans to hold elections. If the US uses its influence with Pakistan to end the latter's support to terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir [J & K], we would certainly welcome it."

"If Pakistan gets more F-16s, their striking power will enhance. We will be compelled to raise ours. But we don't want an arms race."

On Indo-Iran relations he said: "There is an obvious strategic element in Indo-Iran relations. The US is aware of our longstanding relationship with Iran..."

He ruled out another IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] effort in Sri Lanka. "The question does not arise since there has been no request."

India wants "an integrated approach" to the water and transit facilities issues with Bangladesh. "But they want only water...it has become a problem."

Q: You have just returned from the US. Does the Clinton administration still have any reservations about India's poll plans in Jammu and Kashmir? Do you expect the US to pressure Pakistan so that India can complete the poll process?

A: The US administration has a clear sense of our government's commitment to restore the democratic process in Kashmir and hold election, especially after my visit to Washington.

The objective of Pakistan-sponsored and supported terrorism in J & K is to thwart this process. At our joint meeting with the Press in Washington on May 23, secretary of state Warren Christopher remarked that the elections in J & K are important.

I have, therefore, no reason to believe that the Clinton administration has any reservations about our plans to hold these elections. If the US uses its influence with Pakistan to end the latter's support to terrorists in J & K we would certainly welcome it.

Q: What are the likely pressures on India on account of the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, NPT?

A: There is no pressure on us to sign the NPT. We have not felt any change after the NPT members agreed to extend the treaty indefinitely. It is our conviction that genuine non-proliferation can only be achieved within the framework of a time-bound programme for the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Q:The US is keen on a defence tie-up with India, but there seem reservations within India, which is responding to the offer of a hug with a hand-shake. How can these differences in perceptions and distance be narrowed?

A: Indo-US cooperation should be allowed to evolve its natural pace. During US defence secretary's visit to India in January 1995, India and the US agreed to enhance civilian-to-civilian cooperation, service-to-service cooperation and defence research and production cooperation, with progress in each of these three areas taking place concurrently. Within the framework of that agreement, officials of the two countries will meet later to further discuss the details of such cooperation.

Both sides regard defence cooperation as an important part of our overall bilateral relationship.

Q: Did you discuss transfer of weapons or of technology?

A: We discussed the export of dual purpose technology. We told them that our track record of safeguards and our export controls have been quite satisfactory. We want technology for peaceful purposes. You can satisfy yourself on the type of safeguards we are taking. But they have their concerns."

Q: The US is unhappy about India's attitude towards Iran.

A: India and Iran have historically had a relationship of friendship and cooperation. There is also an obvious strategic element in Indo-Iran relations. The US is aware of our longstanding relationship with Iran as also our position on the embargo against Iran which we do not support. I took the opportunity of my visit to Washington to explain India's relations with Iran to our American friends.

Q: The US also has reservations about India's defence tie-up with Russia and the willingness to service defence equipment of Russian origin in third countries.

A: The US has not raised this with us.

Q: If the Pressler amendment is relaxed or goes, Pakistan stands to gain. How does India counter it?

A: We regard the Pressler issue as such to be an issue between Pakistan and the US. From our point of view, it is Pakistan's procurement of sophisticated military hardware from third countries beyond its requirements which is the issue of concern.

If more F-16 aircraft are added to Pakistan's armed forces, that certainly becomes an issue of our concern. In such an event, we will surely feel compelled to take recourse to measures which adequately meet the imperatives of our overall defence preparedness.

We made it clear that if Pakistan gets more F-16s their striking power will enhance. Then, we will be compelled to raise ours. But we don't want an arms race in the subcontinent. There is also the question of the US returning Pakistan its money (paid to buy the F- 16s), but we have said that if the money returned is going to be utilised to buy arms from elsewhere, it is the same to us.

Q: What is the Indian response to the worsening situation in Sri Lanka?

A: India has always stood for a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka. We are concerned at the resumption of hostilities and the use of advanced weaponry by the LTTE. We are watching the situation with close interest and believe that the political solution has to be found within the framework of unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. The question of intervention does not arise.

Q: Are you ruling out another IPKF?

A: Yes, But I would not put it so positively. The question does not arise since there is no request (from Sri Lanka)

Q: Any new initiative being planned with Pakistan?

A: Time and again we have reiterated our willingness to enter into a comprehensive and meaningful dialogue with Pakistan all outstanding issues. Our offer is very much on the table. We are ready to talk and settle all the differences with Pakistan bilaterally. It is up to them to show the sincerity to respond. We consider that the ball is really in Pakistan's court.

Q: Indian response to the Australian proposal for Indian Ocean rim countries has been mixed. Did foreign minister Senator Gareth Evans clarify our doubts. If any ?

A: The Australians do not have any separate inter-governmental proposal or initiative for Indian Ocean rim cooperation. We have participated actively in the inter- governmental process launched by seven countries (Mauritius, South Africa, Kenya, Oman, Singapore, Australia and India) in Mauritius in March 1995. They are backing a non-governmental meeting in Perth this month. There is going to be Indian participation at this informal brain- storming kind of meeting where participants will deliberate on ways and means of promoting cooperation among the littoral states.

During Senator Evan's visit, we discussed how India and Australia could work together to promote concrete and practical ways for regional economic cooperation under the auspices of the Mauritius Initiative to which both countries are committed.

Q: The question of sharing of waters with Bangladesh is an old one, so is the Indian request for transit facilities.

A: Our relations with Bangladesh are complex and there are a number of issues of importance and priority to each country. In Bangladesh's view sharing of water is the primary one. From our side, the obtaining of transit facilities, improved border management and stopping of illegal migration into India are high priorities. The priority issues of both countries would have to be addressed simultaneously in any meaningful and equitable dialogue.

Q: Can there be a swap on water and what is loosely called corridor facilities which the two prime ministers discussed last month?

A: Not a swap. It has to be an integrated approach.

Q: Are they appreciative of this approach?

A: No. They want only water. They say first solve the water problem, then alone all other matters can be taken up. So, it is becoming a problem...But we have begun discussions at the official level.

Q: Are India and China planning more confidence building measures (CBMs)?

A: India and China recognise the importance of effective CBMs and have already put in place a number of such measures, including regular meetings between their border commanders and contacts between their defence establishments. Presently, draft protocols on prevention of air-intrusions and notification of military exercise are under discussion by the joint working group and the expert group. We believe these CBMs would contribute meaningfully to further consolidation of peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas.

Q: There have been efforts to have a free-flow region in the corridor of Myanmar [Burma], China and India's north-east. Is the Indian security threatened? Smuggling going on in this corridor is estimated at over Rs 100 crores annually.

A: We have recently inaugurated across the border trade between India and Myanmar. This should eliminate the requirement of any kind of smuggling and should provide a boost to economic development in the North-Eastern region of India. This should enhance security.

Q: What about smuggling?

A: Unauthorised trade should go down with the formal opening of trade routes. We have one trade route with Myanmar and two on the Chinese side.

Daily Assails U.S. 'Warning' on Power Project

BK0806053095 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 6 Jun 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The Threat Concerning Enron"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has again tried to threaten us regarding the Enron power project. The U.S. Department of Energy has warned that should this project be canceled, it might jeopardise many other similar projects also and thus undermine their confidence in India. Other private companies might also seek a speedy withdrawl from our country. Nobody should be surprised at this U.S. attitude. The United States is quite deft in using such cunning measures to safeguard the economic interests of its companies and no holds are barred to achieve this end. Its latest threat to the government of Maharashtra has been caused by the uncertainty developing on account of the state government's desire to review the entire project. The U.S. Department of Energy has said that during Pranab Mukherjee's recent U.S. visit, he had given assurances that soon the states's chief minister, Mr. Manohar Joshi, would be visiting the United States to settle the issue once and for all. However, it appears that the U.S. Administraion now realizes that the issue is not so simple. The facts that have emerged while the Enron project was under review confirm the earlier apprehensions. So far, many aspects of the project have been kept as a closely guarded secret. During the review of the project, the option of deleting a clause in the agreement also surfaced, because the electricity generated by Enron was likely to cost 2.40 repees, which in itself is quite a costly proposition when compared with the earlier power generation cost. However, according to the agreement, there are provisions for increasing the cost further should the need arise and should Enron deem it necessary. The assured guarantee of being able to buy the electricity generated by Enron had already been a subject causing much furore and the negative effect that Enron power generation might have on the environment has been inviting much flak of late. This project has conclusively proved that instead of taking due advantage of the central government's liberal policies, these foreign companies are out to extract maximum profit in the least possible time by thrusting upon us their most illogical conditions.

The U.S. attitude regarding Enron is quite understandable, but the attitude of the Indian Government is quite baffling. If the claim of the U.S. Department of energy is correct, that Pranab Mukherjee gave asurances that all would be well after the Maharashtra chief minister's U.S. visit instead of apprising the Americans about the various apprehensions over the power project gnawing at the Indian minds, why did he do so? Earlier, former Indian Power Minister Mr. Salve, while speaking in a typical U.S. vein, had declared that the cancellation of this Enron project was likely to have a very adverse effect on foreign investment in India. Do all the Indian ministers feel that India should not care for its interests fearing that all these foreign companies would lose interest in India? What a strange attitude these members of the Indian Cabinet have! Should this attitude continue, the United States will get ample opportunities to twist our arms. Why should our political feebleness cloud our minds about these projects? By making investments these foreign companies are not placing obligations on us. They are here because they find the conditions suitable to them. However, should they thrust their unfair conditions upon us and we bow to them meekly, it is natural that they will grow increasingly more demanding. Hence, we must have the strength to say 'no' to these unfair conditions, and we must summon the courage to say so. So, with all this in view, we must give this U.S. warning the contempt it deserves by simply ignoring it.

Daily: Government Should 'Scrap' Power Project

BK0706071995 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 6 Jun 95 p 13

[Editorial: "No Surrender"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The arrogance of the rich is very much discernible in Washington's warning to India that failure to honour the agreements between Enron and various State Governments in the country could jeopardise several private power projects. A few days ago, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Kenneth Clarke, struck a similar note when he said in Bombay that "several foreign companies, which are planning to invest in India are closely watching the developments associated with the Dabhol project to judge the risks of investing in a project in India." There is thus a concerted move on the part of the Western countries to protect the interests of Enron, irrespective of whether India gains or loses. Enron is thus a major test for India and on no account should the Maharashtra Government or New Delhi yield to such bullying. If the Enron deal is reviewed and ultimately cancelled, will the West lose interest in this country and its liberalisation? If the issue is settled amicably, it will help both India and the West but from India's point of view, the major problem that has arisen is the West's bid to put pressure on India whenever a deal for a project is struck with a multi-national corporation. Are India's economic policies to be laid down in New Delhi or in Washington, London and other Western capitals? It is time the West realised that India is not a banana republic which has to dance to the tune of multi- nationals. Nor is this country's economy so weak that for survival, it should meekly obey the orders of the affluent West.

Invitation of foreign capital is a major plank in the Government's economic policy but that does not call for an abject surrender to foreign investors. What the West offers is no charity and India does not expect any charity either. For every dollar or pound sterling the West invests in India, it gets due return, and India is also benefited by foreign investment. But there should always be a line of demarcation between what is good and what is bad in the national interest. In short, the country should not be taken for a ride by the industrial giants of the West.

There is thus nothing wrong in the new government of Maharashtra reviewing the agreement which its predecessor had entered into with Enron. The parliamentary standing committee on energy has proved with facts and figures that the terms agreed upon for the controversial Dabhol power project are not "in national interest". More will be known about the unfair deal when the review committee appointed by the Maharashtra Government submits its findings later this month. The right course for the State Government is to scrap the project unless the terms are altered. Liberalisation does not mean opening the doors of the economy to exploitation by foreign Private sector.

Dichotomy in Ties With France Observed

95AS0380A Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Apr 95 p 7

[Article by Sanjay Suri: "Dichtomy in Indo-French Ties Exposed by Pranab's Visit"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The External Affairs Minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee's visit to Paris has turned the spotlight on a visible dichotomy in Indo-French relations.

Diplomatic observers pointed out that several high-level visits from India have not been matched by high-level investments. Mr Mukherjee himself made a speech regretting the diminishing French role in relation to other countries.

French investments in India have grown, but not in tune with the level of visits to France by Indian Ministers. "We don't need more speeches from Ministers, we need more deals between businessmen," an Indian banker in Paris revealed on condition of anonymity.

Mr Mukherjee said at a meeting of the Franco-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry that between 1991 and the end of 1994, French direct investments in India were twice the French investment through the 1980s.

The External Affairs Minister said this a minute after saying that "throughout the 1980s India and France regularly exchanged high-level visits." These visits, he said, had "laid a firm foundation for our economic and commercial collaboration," he said.

On that foundation investment has grown, but not far. Between 1991 and the end of 1994, French direct investment approvals have doubled over the eighties to $75 million. The actual investment, however, is considerably lesser. Mr Mukherjee said: "There is a substantial scope for improvement in the figures for actual inflows."

He confessed in his speech that the inflows were disappointing. "Our only regret is that the momentum of India's economic reform has not generated a much larger upswing in this relationship," he said.

France stands 15th globally and fifth within the European Union in the number of approvals for direct investment between 1991 and the end of 1994. "Frances's share of the total approvals for foreign direct investment coming to India is less than one per cent," Mr Mukherjee said.

He made a direct appeal to the guests at a luncheon "to seek collective answers to certain key questions." Prominent among these were: How can we work together to boost French investments in India? Do you see any special difficulties facing your prospective projects in India?

"On our part we will spare no effort in addressing and resolving any problem you encounter," Mr Mukherjee said.

Ministerial and even summit-level visits seem to have had little impact on bilateral relations. The Prime Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, visited France in 1992 for "the development of bilateral economic ties." The French Deputy Minister for Trade visited India in February 1993 to give, what officials described as "further momentum to this impetus."

The Indian Ministers, who visited France in 1993, included those in charge of the departments of Non-conventional Energy Sources, Food-Processing, Power and Chemicals and Fertilisers.

The Agriculture Minister, Mr Balram Jakhar, and the Power Minister, Mr N.K.P. Salve, visited Paris in 1994 to be followed by the recent visit of Mr Mukherjee. As one source put it, though Ministers are now talking more frankly, they're still not talking francs. — **India Abroad News Service.**

Iran

Khamene'i Calls U.S. 'Mother of Corruption'

LD0706131195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A large group of foreign guests who attended the ceremonies marking the sixth anniversary of the demise of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, met His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, this morning. The great leader at that meeting talked about the Western culture's inability to bring prosperity to humanity, describing Islam as a complete system for the administration of life, the only system that can provide for humanity's needs and a new path toward salvation.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said that Western culture had been imposed on a large part of the world, saying: Western culture has, for a long time now, shown its inability to bring prosperity to mankind. Today it is clearly moving toward corruption. The destruction of the family unit; the chaotic state of social life because of discrimination, injustice, and oppression; the bad situation of young people and children who are being deprived from the warm family surroundings; and the depression and confusion of the younger generation are some of the clear indications of Western culture's inability to bring happiness and prosperity to mankind.

The great leader of the Islamic revolution described the use of science, technology, and wealth in spreading corruption and tyranny in the world as the worst crime committed by Western culture, saying: Oppression, discrimination, and bullying has become the norm and legal in the world today. The United Nations formed the Security Council with the wrong composition, and this council, based on the wishes and interests of big powers, makes decisions on bombing, placing an embargo, or destroying any corner of the world, as well as interfering or not interfering in various issues. Depriving a nation of its right, such as the Palestinian people; turning a blind eye to the occupation of a country, such as Lebanon; and not interfering in a country and being on the side of the aggressor and bully, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, are some of the decisions of the UN Security Council, which were taken according to the wishes of the domineering powers headed by the United States, the mother of corruption of the century.

In another part of his speech, the great leader spoke of the wrong analyses and deviant interpretations of Islam, which the enemy is trying to encourage and spread, saying: A wrong, shortsighted, and discriminatory understanding regards Islam as just a system full of laws and regulations for individuals, or at the most personal details and does not consider any role for Islam in administrating life or the important issues of society. This wrong conclusion is because of a lack of knowledge of Islam and the Koran and is linked to a group of clerics affiliated to tyrannical systems.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, explaining the trendy view that considers Islam a religion of absolute complacency [tasahol], said: The deviants who are infatuated by Western culture, or who are under its dominance, look upon Islam as a religion of absolute complacency. They claim that through complacency, a distorted presentation of Islam to the rulers of the aggressive Western culture should be prevented. Under the guise of intellectualism and complacency, they do not want any Islamic commitment or law implemented. They have turned away from jihad, propagation of virtue, and prohibition of vice, Islamic punishment, Islamic hijab, and Islamic rule. They consider Islamic rule as presenting a distorted view of Islam to their Western masters.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, stressed that the way to mankind's prosperity is through comprehensive and full implementation of Islam in accordance with the Koran. He added: The Islam that is expressed in the Koran covers all aspects of human life from daily prayers to jihad, from starting a family unit to formation of a society, from purely personal issues to big international issues, from fraternal transactions among Muslims to fair transactions with non-Muslims and even to harsh confrontation with an invading enemy, and from running a country to managing the economy of a nation. Islam neither pursues the socialist policies of the former Eastern bloc, nor the capitalist tendencies of today's West. The Islam pursued and promoted by the revolution and the Islamic Republic relies on a series of proven instructions and enjoys a strong philosophy and rational logic, which cannot be undermined. This Islam is rich with instructions for ruling a state, running an economy, establishing social links and relationship among the people and instructions for running a family.

The esteemed leader said: The Western culture is engaged in a strong clash with genuine Islam. But the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran is the standard-bearer of genuine Islam. This is a nation that has continued its progress, despite the hostile climate created against Islamic Iran by the enemies of Islam. This nation is becoming stronger and more stable daily. Our great imam [Khomeyni] was a symbol of steadfastness. Making such accusations as bigotry, reaction, and fundamentalism will not force this nation to leave the arena. On the contrary, such accusations will make the nation more resistant.

Referring to the narrow-minded, bigoted, and shortsighted attitudes ruling over the Western world, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: The movement of reawakening Islam is the reason for the dwindling hegemony of the West over the world. He concluded: The Muslims have found the path of Islam and Islam is winning more hearts. Amid this, the intellectuals, religious scholars, active members of society, and particularly the youth and the students are shouldering a heavy burden of responsibility in the confrontation against the enemies of Islam, in order to provide acceleration for the Islamic movement.

IRNA Cites U.S. Scholars' Letter to Clinton

LD0706220195 Tehran IRNA in English
2105 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, N.Y. June 7, IRNA — In an open letter to President Bill Clinton last week a group of 74 mainly American Iran scholars, among them Columbia University Adjunct Professor of Political Science Gary Sick and Iranian scholar Ehsan Yarshater of the same university voiced concern about the adverse cultural implications of the US-led sanctions against Iran.

They said the language of the order seemed to exceed banning trade with Iran with implications that were likely to affect academic freedom, which they said might even exceed "even those applied during the darkest days of the cold war" with the former Soviet Union.

They said in their letter that the statement of the White House press secretary accompanying Clinton's executive order could be interpreted "in such a way as to infringe upon free intellectural inquiry by scholars, whether of American or Iranian national origin."

"As individuals," said the letter of Iran scholars, "we have many different views about the wisdom of US and Iranian policies. However, we agree that freedoms of speech, association, and intellectual inquiry are part of the life blood of education in a free society such as ours."

The letter also quoted Jefferson's familiar statement "nothing more than education advances the prosperity, the power, and the happiness of a nation," urging President Clinton to insure the protection of the freedoms of expression, movement, and communication between American and Iranian academic experts by keeping open "this only window of impartial understanding between the United States and Iran".

They said inattention to that request of theirs might "jeopardize both enlighted national interest of the United States and the principle of academic freedom."

Among signatories to the letter were Iranian Professor of Government and International Studies at University of South Carolina Shahrokh Akhavi, Iranian Professor at the University of Pennsylvania Ahmad Ashraf, Adeed Dawisha of George Mason University, James Bill of College of William and Mary, John Esposito of Georgetown University, Nikki Keddie of University of California in Los Angeles, R.K. Ramazani of the University of Virginia and Edward R. Stettinius of the same university, Thomas M. Ricks of Villanova University, Gary Sick of Columbia University, Marvin Zonis of the University of Chicago and Iranian senior fellow Majid Tehranian at Harvard University and professor at the University of Hawaii, and Ehsan Yarshater of Columbia University.

Radio: U.S. Policy Run by 'Zionists' Interests'

LD0706135095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 7 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on 6 June, concurrent with the execution of the U.S. economic embargo against Iran, talked to Monte Carlo radio and once again stressed the resolute determination of the nation and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for resisting the U.S. political and economic pressures. President of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that Iran at present has gone beyond the phase of economic boycott, which the U.S. has imposed on Iran under the strain of the Israeli pressure groups. [passage omitted]

Many political and economic analysts believe that Washington has been caught up by great misunderstandings in his [as heard] evaluation of standing of the Islamic Republic of Iran at regional and international arena, misleading the American politicians. The stress coupled with confidence of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the resolve of the Iranian people in defusing the U.S. economic embargoes, is inspired from undeniable facts which the Muslim people of Iran have demonstrated in the past 16 years in the course of experiences of the successful five-year development plan and the formulation of the second plan.

This point should not, however, be neglected that beginning of the implementation of the U.S. economic sanctions against Iran can never be taken as the end of U.S. challenges for the justification of the Democrats' wrong policies for the American public opinion. The question still remains as to when and where the U.S. foreign policy will go out of the orbit of the Zionists' interests.

Daily Calls For Ban on U.S. Tobacco Products

LD0706121795 Tehran IRNA in English
1109 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA — Tobacco companies are increasingly targeting young people in developing countries to ensure their long-term revenues are not harmed by the growing trend in developed nations to combat smoking, a morning daily Wednesday [7 June] quoted a recent report by the World Health Organization.

The U.N. agency said each year tobacco is responsible for the deaths of three million people around the world, one death every 10 seconds, the English-language KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL wrote.

At that rate, as many as 10 million people will die annually in 30 to 40 years from smoking, it said adding that, some 70 percent of deaths in the future will come from developing countries where in the last 25 years consumption has risen 67 percent.

The driving force behind the spread of tobacco-related diseases, as reported by WHO, is not a virus or bacterium but the search for profits, it stressed.

"Six trillion cigarettes are smoked each year, but the health risks of tobacco are mistakenly underestimated by millions of people because of 30 to 40 years time lag between the onset of smoking and the death it causes," the article noted.

Half of all teenage smokers today can expect to die from smoking- related illness unless they kick the addiction, it said adding, of these, half will die in middle age and half will die in old age after losing eight years of life expectancy.

"The best measures the world governments can take to deter people from smoking or encourage them to reduce the habit, is to drastically increase the taxes on cigarettes, and impose a total ban on tobacco advertising," the paper suggested.

It also proposed that governments and health agencies should declare war on tobacco companies and should look to become as good at promoting non-smoking as tobacco companies are at promoting cigarettes.

"It's high time, Iranian officials responsible for public health, give it a serious thought and take immediate action to save people from the ill-effects of tobacco smoke," it continued.

To begin with, it added, they should start by banning smoking in public places, in government and semi-governmental organizations as well as on overseas flights.

"They should levy higher taxes on locally produced cigarettes and impose ban on imports of tobacco products especially U.S.-made cigarettes," the daily stated.

It concluded by saying, it is indeed disgusting to see some people smoking winston cigarettes while the whole nation has decided to boycott U.S.-made products.

Diplomat on Islamic Resistance, Other Issues

NC0706103395 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
25 May 95 p 12

[Second part of three-part interview with Homayun 'Alizadeh, ambassador to Lebanon by unidentified correspondent in Lebanon; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] What will the position of the Islamic Resistance be in the future of Lebanon?

['Alizadeh] This a question that is commonly asked: that if the peace between Israel and Lebanon materializes, what will the fate of the Islamic Resistance be? There are many who ask this with concern regarding the Islamic Resistance, as if to say that an Islamic situation in Lebanon in general is based on arms and being armed. If these weapons, however few, are taken from the hands of the resistance or there are no reasons for the continued presence of such arms naturally in the event of, say, a complete withdrawal by Israel to the other side of Lebanon's borders or if it retracts its claims to the south unconditionally that the existence of Islamic leanings will be endangered.

Perhaps such morale or feeling is present in those who ask such a question out of sheer concern but there are others who also raise these questions from other aspects. In this regard, I should state that I do not have such a perception of the gravity or force of the Islamic Resistance or the situation of Islam in Lebanon. First I believe that the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon is the core of a wider movement, that is, an Islamic awakening in the region and both are reciprocally intertwined.

Thus you can see that the Islamic Resistance movement receives spiritual sustenance and benefit from the position of the other movements stemming from the Islamic renaissance in the region. Conversely, the Islamic awakening is influenced by the heroism and success of the Islamic movements in Lebanon as a result of which it approaches the problems and tribulations in other parts of the Islamic world with stronger morale.

The second point is that the Islamic bias in Lebanon is not based on weapons. In fact, the main armor of the Islamic Resistance in the south is the manifestation of the various dimensions of the Islamic orientation in the southern part of the country. This has been achieved by using the Zionist and usurpist enemy's presence to the optimum in order to display its sincerity and genuineness to the Lebanese society in the south, thus proving that it is possible to fight Israel and to protect Islamic values, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity, as well as Islamic honor and prestige and to drive home the fact that weakness or lack of resources should not be used as an excuse for surrendering to the enemy. The real reason for not doing so is the situation that we see in south Lebanon.

Accordingly, we infer that the main weapon of the Islamic Resistance is the manifestation of the Islamic bias in Lebanon, which is in itself a corollary of the general Islamic sentiment prevailing in the region. Even when there are no weapons present, the Islamic predilection is so deeply and strongly rooted in the region that it has a very active and basic presence regarding the future of which we do not have particular fears or apprehensions.

As you see, this Islamic movement as we see it today did not exist a decade ago. The devout and pious Lebanese people were like a generic mass but what has now assumed the shape of an Islamic proclivity evolved over the past decade. The sapling of the Islamic movement has weathered crises, attritive pressures, devastating and violent onslaughts in the course of that decade and reached the present level of growth and capability. It now stands as a strong trunk before Israel and has widened its girth.

What this sapling has sustained in the past cannot be compared with what it may have to bear in the future. Therefore, I am very confident and optimistic about the future of the Islamic Resistance under all circumstances whether in the event of a peace compromise or lack of it. All those who are concerned about this out of compassion should have self-confidence more than anything else.

As for your question regarding the Islamic sentiments in the region after the peace with Israel, it can be reworded. One should not base one's perceptions of the future on the lack of self-confidence or on an inferiority complex. If this were so it is possible that even before confronting any such danger we may encounter internal dangers and be embroiled in moral and mental dilemmas. If you view the exhortations of the great leader [Khamene'i] regarding his analyses and appraisal of regional developments, you will see how he calls for extraordinary awareness, intelligence, and vigilance but at the same time how optimistically he speaks despite the problems and dangers. He considers the future to be in the hands of the Islamic movements and believes that the path that we have traversed is not in any way less than the one ahead. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] After the al-Ta'if Accord, Lebanon began moving down a new political path and we witnessed a series of superstructural changes in the Lebanese Government's attitude to political actions. Can we venture to say in general that Lebanon is moving toward a sort of democracy? Are those groups, who until yesterday were pitted against one another in armed combat, will adopt a peaceful and desirable path in the framework of Lebanon's new political path?

In other words, should those who have not heard much about a civil war in Lebanon say that it has ended completely?

['Alizadeh] The question is a very precise one. Important developments have taken place in the past few years and I can state that Lebanon has been returned to its past natural course. I do not consider sectarian and internecine strife in Lebanon the main issue, but a transitory one. The peace and coexistence that now prevails is a return to the former Lebanon and the period of civil and internecine strife was an interim one in Lebanon's history, not a very vital part in its existence. As I mentioned, Lebanon dates back to antiquity and has a longstanding history in which the various clans have coexisted amicably. That is why Lebanon has such a unique position in the region. [passage omitted]

After the al-Ta'if Accord and the ensuing developments, it can be said that the Israeli danger has been identified and Israel has been proclaimed the enemy in a consensus by the Lebanese nation. This is the greatest development that has taken place in Lebanon in the past few years.

The Lebanese became aware of their friends in general and of their foes and this has been an important step in closing the door for Israel's interference in Lebanon's social and political life. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese Government knows that Israel has designs on Lebanon and is its enemy and therefore, there is no doubt that it should be alert and vigilant against Israel's approach toward Lebanon. However, within the framework of the distinctive assessment of the Lebanese Government and the general consensus of opinion in identifying the enemy, the government assists the Islamic Resistance as a symbol of the resistance and the will of the people toward Israel in the south. It is obvious that the Islamic Resistance is not confined to one sect, group, or faction, even though Israel strives to depict the Islamic Resistance as one group or faction in order to isolate it in Lebanon.

Israel also endeavored to depict the Islamic Resistance as affiliated with one particular group which does not have any relation or connection with Lebanese ideals and aspirations. This is why Israel is at an impasse. A second point, which I referred to earlier, is the haphazard nature of the internal system which is an obsolete one for the domestic scene in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

We can say that the current phase in Lebanon is a fateful and historical one and completely different from various phases in the past. Therefore, immense vigilance and care must be exercised regarding the two axes that I mentioned, as they are interrelated — especially since major developments are currently unfolding in Lebanon in view of the extensive regional developments known as the so-called Middle East peace.

Tunnel Completed for Rail Link to Central Asia

LD0406135395 Tehran IRNA in English 1231 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., June 4, (IRNA) — A project to dig the third tunnel of the international Mashhad-Sarakhs railway in Mazdavand Mount was fully implemented after year-long efforts of Iranian experts, an expert in charge of monitoring implementation of Mashhad-Sarakhs railway project Mohammad-Hosayn Shahrabadi announced here Saturday [4 June].

Shahrabadi said that operations were underway to dig the first and second tunnel, each two kms long, as well. He added that tracks had been laid for just 10 km out of a total of 165 km Mashhad-Sarakhs. The Iranian official expressed hope that the railway would be put into operation by end of the year.

The railway, which routes from Mashhad to Sarakhs and Tajan in Turkmenistan, (a total of 295 km), is built to connect railway networks in central and northeast Asia to Europe and Persian Gulf littoral states via Iran.

Some 130 km of the railway, which in fact revives the Silk Road, is in Turkmenistan, while the remaining 165 km in Iran.

Council of Resistance Calls For Demonstrations

LD0506140895 (Internet) Eunet. Politics Newsgroup in English 31 May 95

[Release by the National Council of Resistance of Iran - Foreign Affairs Committee]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

IRANIANS CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL EMBARGO OF MULLAHS, DECLARE SUPPORT FOR RESISTANCE'S PRESIDENT-ELECT MARYAM RAJAVI

June 20th is a milestone in the history of the Iranian people, marking the beginning of their just, nationwide resistance for peace and democracy in Iran.

It is also the day of martyrs and political prisoners. On June 20, 1987, the Iranian Resistance founded its National Liberation Army. The NLA guarantees the establishment of democracy in Iran and victory of a cause for which 100,000 people have given their lives and another 150,000 have been imprisoned.

June 20th is honored every year by Iranians abroad in major capitals of the world. This year, the offices of Iran's President-elect, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, are sponsoring the events. Iranians will urge the international community to reject the mullahs' regime, impose a total economic and trade embargo on Tehran, and recognize and support the Iranian Resistance.

This is a brief overview of the status quo.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RESISTANCE ADVOCATES:

- Separation of Church and State.

- Complete freedom of expression and belief.
- Complete freedom of the press and political parties.
- Legal and occupational security for all citizens.
- Equality of political and social rights for all citizens, women and men.
- Abolishment of all gender, ethnic and religious discrimination.
- Recognition of general elections and popular suffrage as the only criteria for the legitimacy of elected officials.
- Free market economy and private investment.
- Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and opposition to production of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles.

SPRING OF DISCONTENT

Beneath the appearance of a quiet winter, the embers of discontent seethed under the ashes. With the beginning of spring, the society flared up, igniting Iran.

This time, the voice of protest came from the heart of the country, south Tehran. Angry young men and women from the society's vast majority of deprived took the lead in riots by 50,000 residents of the blue-collar shanty town called Islamshahr. They clashed with the police and security forces, disarming them. The outbreak was so intense that to contain it, the regime brought in helicopter gunships, opening fire from the ground and air on the demonstrators. Fifty were killed, hundreds wounded and 600 arrested by the Guards.

As usual, the protest had been sparked by economic concerns, but ignited the deep-seated rage of a people frustrated with the barbarism of their turbaned rulers. A hike in bus fares sent the people into the street, where their chants rapidly evolved to "death to Khamene'i, death to Rafsanjani!" Agence France Presse reported the residents of Islamshahr as saying, "The revolution has just begun!"

THE APRIL UPRISING IN SOUTH

Tehran was the eighth major outbreak of popular rage in 1995. The first happened in January, when 100,000 people took to the streets of western Tehran, calling for the regime's overthrow. Earlier, in August '94, the furious people of Qazvin liberated their city and set fire to at least 100 government centers. That same year, in February, Zahedan and Mashhad witnessed bloody clashes!

The pace and intensity of this trend is heightened by freedom fighters within Iran. They encourage the populace and give them hope. Despite the cruel suppression, they cover walls with slogans and posters, and secretly distribute videotapes showing the Resistance's army and President. They keep alive people's faith, telling them, "This regime can be ousted. The Resistance is ready, and in step with the uprisings, the NLA will get the job done!"

RIGHT TO RESIST

In 1979, the leadership of the Iranian people's anti-monarchic revolution for independence and freedom, was usurped by Khomeyni and his mullahs. Under the name of religion, Khomeyni suppressed the democratic forces. On his order, Guards opened fire on the peaceful demonstration of half a million people in Tehran on June 20, 1981. The long night of terror fell on Iran; thousands were executed. The Mojahedin and other democratic forces had no choice but full-fledged resistance.

After June 20, armed resistance spread to cities all across the country. In 1987, the National Liberation Army was formed on the Iran-Iraq border-strip. The NLA, now fully mechanized, is comprised of patriotic and determined youth, who have voluntarily joined this army to liberate their homeland. One-third of the NLA combatants and a major portion of its commanders are women.

STRIVING FOR DEMOCRACY

Convinced that a single group or ideology is never able to establish democracy on its own, in July 1981 the Iranian Resistance's Leader, Mas'ud Rajavi, founded the National Council of Resistance of Iran, a wide-ranging coalition of democratic forces opposing the mullahs. The coalition grew to become a 235-member parliament representing all sectors, religions and strata of the Iranian society. The NCR is committed to remain in power no more than six months after the mullahs' overthrow, during which time it will prepare for a free and fair election, in which the nation can vote, directly, for a Constitutional and Legislative Assembly. The NCR has ratified several major plans on women's rights and freedoms, separation of Church and State, and the Kurdish right to autonomy. The Council has also pioneered the cause of peace, and its Peace Plan of March 1983 enjoys the support of thousands of ministers, parliamentarians and political dignitaries.

Contrary to the mullahs' regime, which thrives on the suppression of women, half of the members of the Resistance's Parliament are women. In August 1993, the Parliament elected Mrs. Maryam Rajavi as President for the transitional period after the overthrow of the mullahs' regime. Her task is to build a spirit of national solidarity to heal the wounds caused by the mullahs' oppressive rule, and to guarantee implementation of the NCR's plans. The fact that a Shiite Muslim woman presides over the Resistance's movement- a choice widely welcomed by Iranians inside and outside of Iran- is the greatest cultural and ideological challenge to Iran's ruling fundamentalists.

BOYCOTT MULLAHS

For the past 14 years, the Iranian Resistance has demanded an arms and oil boycott of the Khomeyni regime. The NCR believes that firmness is the only way to counter the mullahs' export of terrorism and fundamentalism.

The western and industrialized countries' extensive economic ties with the Khomeyni regime, as well as the international community's silence and indifference have emboldened the regime to continue its crimes. President Clinton's decision to impose a complete trade embargo on Tehran clerics is extensively supported by the Iranian people, who demand that other western and industrialized countries also join the embargo.

The mullahs spend all of Iran's oil revenues on domestic suppression, their conventional and non-conventional arms build-up, and export of terrorism and fundamentalism.

"In view of the explosive state of Iranian society and the presence of a democratic alternative, an international embargo will be enthusiastically welcomed by the people of Iran, expediting the establishment of democracy. Non-binding resolutions and verbal condemnations are insufficient. Time has come for the world community to unite in an embargo, reject the illegitimate dictatorship ruling Iran and recognize the National Council of Resistance of Iran and its President-elect whom the overwhelming majority of the Iranian people support." - Iranian Resistance leader Mas'ud Rajavi, from his message to G7 leaders

This June 20th, Iranians will take part in ceremonies and demonstrations in various countries, in which they will call for a worldwide, comprehensive trade embargo on the mullahs' terrorist dictatorship and support for the Iranian people's just Resistance.

National Council of Resistance of Iran - Foreign Affairs Committee May 1995

Mojahedin-e Khalq Statement on Pilot's Defection

LD0606110895 (Internet) Soc.Culture.Iranian in English 1916 GMT 4 Jun 95 (tentative)

[Press release from Press Office of the People's Mojahedin of Iran in Paris on 2 June: "Iranian Pilot Flies to Iraqi Kurdistan with Helicopter, Seeking Asylum From UN, Mullahs' Guards Begin Operation To Kill Him"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The mullahs' regime has mobilized its military and intelligence organs to "abduct or eliminate" an Iranian pilot officer of the regime's Army Air Corps, who fled to Iraqi Kurdistan with his helicopter on Wednesday, May 31, and sought asylum from United Nations officials in the city of al-Sulaymaniyah, according to sources inside the clerical regime.

The regime's supreme leader, 'Ali Khamene'i, has put Guards Corps Commander in Chief Mohsen Reza'i directly in charge of the regime's operations. Ahmad Kazemi, Commander of GC Hamzeh Garrison has been given the assignment to return the pilot and the helicopter to Iran as soon as possible. His orders are to kill the pilot at any cost if it is not possible to arrest him alive. The reports add that the helicopter had an accident and crashed while the pilot was trying to land it near the UN headquarters. The pilot who is from the west Iranian city of Islamabad, has applied for asylum at the UN headquarters.

Iraqi Kurds in al-Sulaymaniyah on Thursday handed over the crashed helicopter to the mullahs' Guards Corps headquarters in al- Sulaymaniyah. GC officer Bayat, commander of the GC headquarters in al-Sulaymaniyah, has prepared a strike force to attack the UN facilities or to assail the pilot while he is being transferred to another location. Bayat is waiting for final instructions from Tehran. The clerical regime's intelligence operatives and agents in al-Sulaymaniyah have been mobilized to hunt down the pilot.

In a radio message this morning, GC officer Hormati, commander of Guards Corps Ramadhan Garrison in the west Iranian town of Naghadeh, ordered Bayat to "finish off" the pilot. The message read: "Have your men on standby and fully ready. Once the orders are given, carry them out and finish him off."

The People's Mojahedin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] Organization of Iran appeals to the United Nations Secretary General, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and all international human rights organizations to intervene immediately to save the life of the Iranian pilot and neutralize the mullahs' plot to abduct or kill him.

*Country's Cultural Budget Examined

95LA0232A Tehran SALAM in Persian 4, 6, 8, May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [4 May, p 6]

Note: Culture establishes the standard foundation of every society, and any change or development in human societies depends fully on that society's cultural developments. The Koran mentions this principle as a divine tradition: "Indeed, God never changes the condition of any nation unless they create change in their souls." (KORAN, Ra'd Sura, Verse 11) Hence, attention to the issue of culture and cultural planning in the Islamic Republic of Iran must be of significant importance and absorb the efforts of the society. If we consider the speed of scientific and cultural development and the expansion of communication in the world and understand the "cultural war" that exists in the world that pursues Western cultural domination, then we must consider the issue of culture a hundred times more important than what it seems now. The protection of our "religious and national identity" will not be possible except under the auspices of cultural activities that, on the one hand, have roots in our history, culture, and religious and national values, and on the other, are suitable to the requirements of the time, meet the present needs of the society, and involve the existing cultural and artistic forms (including the written and non-written media, the education system, etc.). Unfortunately, it must be confessed that despite the admission of everyone, especially those who should know best, regardless of the importance of the role of culture, even given the discussion of "cultural invasion," not nearly enough attention has been paid to this issue as should be. The warning signs in the society indicate hidden cultural problems and even, according to some, a "cultural crisis."

The point that must be added here is that usually the effects of economic policies gradually appear after a delay of six months or a year, and their positive or negative effects can be easily perceived, measured, and corrected. The effects of cultural policies, however, reveal themselves in the long term, and often the negative effects of cultural policies appear when there is no time left to correct them. This is precisely the danger. Unfortunately, it must be said that there seems to be no standard criterion for the evaluation of cultural activities in our country. In fact, some even think that should the ministry in charge of cultural affairs in our society be closed, there would not be much damage to the society. Perhaps it is such analysis that has resulted in this ministry approaching the point of closure.

The following illustrates well how insignificant the allocation of the budget to culture is and how small the share of cultural expenditures is in the basket of family expenditures (as a result of the economic conditions in which families live). Under such conditions, can the issue of culture be expected to have a suitable place in our society? And can it be resistant in the age of communication and the war of the air waves against "cultural invasion"? And can it be present in the global competition of culture and knowledge? It is hoped that publishing matters of this kind will familiarize those in charge of the cultural affairs of the country with the existing realities, remind them of their great responsibility of cultural guidance in the society, and in short remind them that one cannot strengthen the cultural stronghold of the society with slogans and speeches, but rather by moving toward a devised cultural plan in which all dimensions and aspects of the issue are noted and specific standards and criteria are set to continually evaluate and supervise this plan. This is the only way for the cultural guidance of the society to move toward desired goals.

The Importance of Culture

In addition to our country being Islamic, it is also a country in a state of development and reconstruction. Naturally, in order for us to be able to have a country with lofty Islamic characteristics, we need a strong and independent culture. On the one hand, in order to achieve economic development, a systematized movement is necessary in which various factors, such as accumulation of capital, specialized training, a strong and stable pro-development government, and cultural development, must exist. In fact, cultural development is our most essential factor. For economic development, we must look to culture and understand the specific relationship between these two and the importance of the role of culture. First, we shall explain the two terms, cultural development and the culture of development, and the difference between the two concepts.

The first term concerns the increase in the share of use and benefit from the culture and cultural resources, the awareness and knowledge of the members of the society, the thriving of sciences and arts, and their general expansion in terms of quantity and their increase in quality. Cultural development promises the improvement of cultural conditions and the quantitative and qualitative growth of cultural issues.

What is meant by the second term is to understand the place of culture in development, what role it plays in development, and what cultural elements can prevent or advance development. In other words, we take development as a necessary and permanent concept and measure culture with regard to this factor.

In fact, the culture of development means to prepare the society to accept the principles of development, in other words, establish a developmental culture.

"Every region has its own cultural manifestations that are deeply rooted in the values, beliefs, wishes, and needs of the people of that region. This is due to the fact that cultural manifestations are based on the authentic heritage that is a factor in determining the common image of the 'self' and the 'society.' The clarity of this cultural identity and its constructive continuation are the main factors in creating a unified and unifying cultural framework. Without this framework, suitable and efficient institutions that are rooted in tradition and authenticity and can also accept innovation and change cannot be achieved. Without these institutions, true development cannot take shape."[1]

Hence, reliance on culture, which covers a vast spectrum, is one of the most important factors to which attention must be paid by societies that hope for development in various social, economic, and political areas. No nation can achieve its economic, social, and political development and reconstruction goals unless it has already prepared the grounds for cultural development, creating a society in which culture has developed and thrived; in other words, it must have strengthened suitable cultural beliefs.

Experience has proven that without cultural development, even if in some instances economic and social success is achieved for a nation, those successes will always be inharmonious, unstable, and insignificant compared to the many failures.

"South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan are recognized as distinct examples of economic development in the Third World. In addition to such variables as foreign aid, political support, and favorable conditions for international exchange that are themselves important indexes, many analysts have considered one of the important factors in the rapid quality of growth and development to be their cultural composition. The cultural principles of these countries have made possible the necessary cultural requirements for economic development. In the societies of the Far East, individuals have great respect for hierarchy and usually give priority to national and group goals over personal goals. They are committed to hard work and display extraordinary loyalty to their employers in their occupations and their performance of duties. Individuals tend to respect the law, and they give particular preference to order, organization, and precision in work. Because hierarchy is observed and everyone acts within the limits of his authority, the management of the economic activities and creation of harmony among all sectors is easily accomplished."[2]

These characteristics are the beliefs, suppositions, and values that must form in the cradle of culture and be strengthened in order to become second nature for all the people. Unfortunately, these characteristics of economic culture do not exist in most countries, including our own. If such a cultural climate dominates the work, environment, and economic production and is coupled with innovation, creativity, and the blossoming of talents, obviously at least in the economic production arena, such countries will have significant output.

Considering the duties and the great mission the Islamic revolution has conferred on us and considering that the economically advanced countries have reached an ultraindustrial phase, we must wake up and make ourselves believe that we too are able to do it. We must also develop and strengthen the collective and cooperative spirit to achieve our developmental goals.

The experience of the past several decades has proven that if building institutions and economic development are not coupled with individual development—in other words, if there is no change in the viewpoint and capacity of individuals—development will turn to chaos because it will face the society with the gap between the actual and the imagined. Development is a process that makes the structure and composition of society more complex, and if individuals remain simple, as in the past, and are not able to understand these complexities, they will not be able to overcome their problems.

The secret of the victory of Japan as a developed and successful country is that not only has it not forgotten its cultural identity, but it has established its developmental programs on its cultural heritage and values. Hence, it is necessary to agree on this point, that the development plan must rely on culture. Our culture is deep and proud and has the potential to support development. Since our culture has a profoundly religious structure, there is no doubt that we must start our work by relying on religious and cultural elements and values. Therefore, we must both rely on culture and also correct and modify it.

Cultural beliefs are not a harmonious collection with a single source of creation. Some cultural beliefs have roots in political and economic history; one group has scientific roots; some have their roots in religion; and others have their roots in the natural and geographical conditions and situations and have been created over a long period of time and changed in the course of history. Hence, we must find the roots of these cultural beliefs and eliminate the superstitions in order to achieve the necessary change. In any case, since culture is the basis for our attitudes, and a significant part of our cultural attitudes is also based on it, we consider the roots of the economic developmental tree, and we must necessarily look for the secret of development and its continuation in an independent cultural identity.

Cultural Planning

Planning is the creation of a logical mechanism of guidance for operation or the best use of the existing resources (including actual and potential resources) to achieve the goals (the most essential needs of the society).

The questions that are raised in cultural planning are: 1) Can we plan culture? 2) Is culture an issue of quality? 3) Can quality be planned?

"Regarding cultural planning, there are two opinions. Some believe that the quality aspects cannot be planned and because culture is a quality issue, it cannot be planned, since planning requires dealing with quality, and the use of quantitative methods in this issue will harm the basic meaning of culture." Another group believes that culture can be planned. Lord Kelvin[3] believes that "whatever can be understood can also be measured. Those who say culture cannot be measured can be criticized for being incapable of truly understanding culture."[4]

We believe that even though cultural planning has had problems, there are many unknowns in culture, and some aspects of culture are qualitative and cannot be planned precisely. Nevertheless, on the whole, culture can be planned, and the cultural sector requires its own kind of planning. In other words, it is true that planning cannot be carried out for all areas of culture, and the spiritual and intellectual angles of the society can be determined with many of the policies and principles that effect the creation of the climate of the society.

Allocation of the Budget to the Cultural Sector

The mission of culture and cultural matters is the proper education of human beings. With this perspective, attention and planning must concentrate on the education and nurturing of the personality of individuals. By influencing individuals during the period when their personality is being shaped, the necessary changes must take place and the needed beliefs and values must become part of their personality. Studies by psychologists show that the personality of an individual is formed between the ages of five and 15, and later personality development slows down. Hence, in order to change culture through structure, we must attend to children and youth. Naturally, individuals at this age are in school, at home, and in the society. Building culture for economic development requires us to act correctly at home, in school, and in the society. Hence, the three pivotal points of planning for development, or the strategies of cultural development through cultural education, are: 1) reforming and rebuilding elementary schools (schools); 2) providing for the basic living needs (home); and 3) building cultural models (society). The third stratagem is an important duty of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance.

[6 May, p 6]

[FBIS Translated Text] Culture has been defined in the Five-Year Plan Law (1368-1372 [21 March 1989-20 March 1994]) as follows: "Culture is the embodiment of the beliefs, virtue, values, ideals, knowledge, arts, techniques, customs, and practices of the society that determine the structure of and change in the quality of life for a nation."

Considering this definition, the cultural expenditures of the government[5] and families are provided and allocated. Here we will examine the allocation of the budget in these two institutions.

Examination of Per Capita Cultural Expenditures Allocated by Government

First looking at the allocation of the government budget to the cultural sector, we will examine the share of this sector among the fundamental budgetary and administrative elements of the Plan and Budget Organization, the Economic Council, and the First Five-Year Plan and compare it with the ideal conditions.

Chart 1. Per Capita Expenditures in the General National Budget

Year	General National Budget (million rials)	Per Capita Expenditures at Current Prices (rials)	Per Capita Expenditures at Fixed Prices (rials)	Index of Per Capita Expenditures at Fixed Prices
1361 [21 Mar 82-20 Mar 83]	3,366,723	91,495	91,495	100
1365 [21 Mar 86-20 Mar 87]	3,465,679	69,512	14,699	46
1366 [21 Mar 87-20 Mar 88]	3,982,968	78,020	36,611	40
1367 [21 Mar 88-20 Mar 89]	4,625,286	87,638	31,903	35
1368 [21 Mar 89-20 Mar 90]	4,766,683	87,547	29,477	32
1369 [21 Mar 90-20 Mar 91]	6,678,418	118,926	34,293	37
1370* [21 Mar 91-20 Mar 92]	831,981 [as published]	144,087	36,294	40
1371* [21 Mar 92-20 Mar 93]	10,451,149	177,922	40,254	44

*Estimate. Sources: Column 1, budget law of those years; Column 2, calculated by using indexes of prices and inflation rate in those years (source: Central Bank, C 1-1).

A look at Chart 1 shows that the national general budget in 1361 was 3,366,723 million rials [R], which increased to R6,678,448 million in 1369. The per capita expenditures at current prices in 1361 were about

R91,495, which increased to R118,962 in 1369. By calculating the per capita expenditures at fixed prices, it can be seen that the per capita expenditures in 1369 are only about R34,293. In other words, the per capita expenditures at the 1369 fixed prices compared to 1361 decreased by about 63 percent. This decrease was due to the decrease in the general budget, the increase in inflation, and the uncontrolled increase in the population of the country. Graph 1 indicates the decreasing trend of current and developmental expenditures at fixed prices until 1368. In 1368, due to the end of the imposed war and the start of a new trend in the economic conditions, this figure began to increase, and the curve began to ascend.

Graph 1: Per Capita Expenditures at Fixed Prices of 1369 During the period 1365-1371 [21 March 1986-20 March 1993] [Graph 1 not reproduced here]

Of about R3,465,680 million of the general national budget in 1365, only R42,558 million (1.2 percent) was allocated to the cultural sector. Looking at the figures of other years (Chart 2), we see that this ratio, which unfortunately is a very low figure, has been maintained.

Comparison of the Operation of Funds for the Cultural Sector in the General National Budget

Chart 2	1365-1369 [21 Mar 86-20 Mar 91]		Figures in Thousand Rials
Year	General National Budget	Budget of the Cultural Sector	Ratio of the National Budget of the Cultural Sector to the General National Budget (percent)
1365 [21 Mar 86-20 Mar 87]	3,465,679,485	42,558,327	1.2
1366 [21 Mar 87-20 Mar 88]	3,982,968,144	40,613,207	1
1367 [21 Mar 88-20 Mar 89]	4,625,286,306	49,799,705	1.1
1368 [21 Mar 89-20 Mar 90]	4,670,683,186	56,895,164	1.2
1369 [21 Mar 90-20 Mar 91]	6,678,418,155	91,809,488	1.4
1370* [21 Mar 91-20 Mar 92]	9,278,506,740	145,859,250	1.58

*Ratified. Source: budget law of those years.

Chart 3: Comparison of the Operation of Developmental Funds of the Cultural Sector and the General National Budget, 1365-1369 [21 Mar 86-20 Mar 91]

			Figures in thousand rials
Year	Developmental Funds of General National Budget	Developmental Funds of the Sector	Ratio of Developmental Funds of the Sector to the Developmental Funds of the General National Budget
1365 [21 Mar 86-20 Mar 87]	746,548,561	6,679,743	0.9
1366 [21 Mar 87-20 Mar 88]	729,225,031	3,848,875	0.5
1367 [21 Mar 88-20 Mar 89]	816,444,708	7,399,721	0.9
1368 [21 Mar 89-20 Mar 90]	931,495,355	11,456,388	1.2
1369 [21 Mar 90-20 Mar 91]	1,766,311,285	25,490,167	1.5

Source: Budget laws of those years.

By comparing the distribution of the funds of the cultural sector (operation) according to category in 1365 and 1368 in Chart 5, we see that in 1365 the distribution of the funds of the cultural art, information and media, and tourism categories have been 29.2 percent, 70 percent, and 0.8 percent, respectively, whereas the same ratio in 1369 was 34.1, 60.3, and 5.6 percent. It can be seen that in the distribution of funds, little attention has been paid to the important issue of tourism, even though the percentage of allocated funds in 1369 compared to 1368 is significant.

In Chart 2, we see the low ratio of the budget of the cultural sector to the general national budget. The question that is raised here is: Is this small percentage of the general national budget that is allocated to the cultural sector spent, and if it is, is it spent in the best possible way on the basis of plans? The response to the second part of the question is difficult and beyond the scope of this report. In order to respond to the first part, by looking at Chart 4 and Graph 2, we see that the growth of operations as ratified in 1365 was about -20.5 percent. In other words, 20.5 percent of the ratified budget has not been spent. Also, these figures in 1366, 1367, 1368, and 1369 were -0.8 percent, 0.3 percent, -23.5 percent, and 4.7 percent, respectively. In order to better clarify the course of this growth, if you look at Graph 2, you will see that the graph of the ratified budget, despite the low rate, is not rising rationally, and despite high inflation, it has fluctuated. If the graph of the operations of the cultural sector budget has had a logical course, such a situation, despite all the secondary problems like the imposed war, indicates that the planners and policy makers have not done their planning in a rational, studied manner.

Chart 4: Growth of the Operations of the National Funds for the Cultural Sector

			Figures in Thousand Rials
Year	Ratified	Operation	Growth of Ratified Operations
1365 [21 Mar 86-20 Mar 87]	53,518,823	42,558,327	-20.5
1366 [21 Mar 87-20 Mar 88]	40,949,850	40,613,207	-0.8
1367 [21 Mar 88-20 Mar 89]	49,645,957	49,799,705	+0.3
1368 [21 Mar 89-20 Mar 90]	85,580,674	56,895,164	-33.5
1369 [21 Mar 90-20 Mar 91]	87,709,824	91,809,488	+4.7
1370 [21 Mar 91-20 Mar 92]	145,859,250	—	—

Source: The budget laws of those years.

Graph 2: Comparative Graph of Ratified Funds and Operations of the Cultural Sector, 05/31/1369 [22 August 1990] [Graph 2 not reproduced here]

Considering the low ratio of allocated budget to the cultural sector and the increasing population, it is natural that the per capita cultural expenditures be at a low level. A glance at Chart 6 reveals that the per capita cultural expenditures at the current prices in 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983] were about R902 and in 1369 reached R1,635. But if we calculate the per capita cultural expenditures at the fixed price (1361), in the period 1366-1371, they were 512, 373, 344, 352, 471, 637, and 555. [sentence as published]

Chart 5: Comparison of Distribution of Funds for the Cultural Sector (Operations) According to Category in 1366 and 1369

Year	1365 [as published]						1369					
Category	Current		Developmental		Total		Current		Developmental		Total	
	Amount	Percentage	Amount	Percentage	Amount	Percentage	Amount	Percentage	Amount	Percentage	Amount	Percentage
Culture and Art	10,956	30.5	1,469	22	12,425	29.2	20,335	30.7	60,927	42.9	31,262	34.1
Information and Media	24,774	69.1	5,025	76.2	29,799	70	44,122	66.7	111,145	43.7	55,267	60.3
Tourism	148	0.4	186	2.8	334	0.8	1,704	2.6	34,180	13.4	5,122	5.6
Total	35,878	100	6,680	100	42,558	100	66,161	100	25,490	100	91,651	100

Graph 3: Per Capita Cultural Expenditures Allocated by the Government at 1361 Fixed Prices During 1365-1371 [Graph 3 not reproduced here]

A glance at Graph 3, which reveals this trend, clarifies that the curve of per capita cultural expenditures up to 1368 decreased and from 1368 began to increase. The increase continued until 1370, and from 1370 the curve began to decline. In other words, the per capita cultural expenditures in 1365 to 1369 at the 1361 prices (base year) decreased by 43, 59, 62, 61, and 48 percents, respectively.

Chart 6: Per Capita Cultural Expenditures Allocated by the Government and the Index of Changes Based on Fixed Prices in 1361 and 1365 to 1370

Year	Population	Operation of the Cultural Sector (million rials)	Per Capita Cultural Expenditures Based on Current Prices (rials)	Per Capita Cultural Expenditures Based on Fixed Prices (rials)	Index and Changes Based on Fixed Prices
1361 [21 Mar 82-20 Mar 83]	40,777	36,797	902	902	100
1365 [21 Mar 86-20 Mar 87]	49,875	42,558	854	512	57
1366 [21 Mar 87-20 Mar 88]	51,050	40,613	796	373	41
1367 [21 Mar 88-20 Mar 89]	52,777	49,800	944	344	38
1368 [21 Mar 89-20 Mar 90]	54,447	56,895	1,045	352	39
1369 [21 Mar 90-20 Mar 91]	56,139	91,809	1,635	471	52
1370 [21 Mar 91-20 Mar 92]	53,742	*145,859	2,526	637	71

Year	Population	Operation of the Cultural Sector (million rials)	Per Capita Cultural Expenditures Based on Current Prices (rials)	Per Capita Cultural Expenditures Based on Fixed Prices (rials)	Index and Changes Based on Fixed Prices
1371 [21 Mar 92-20 Mar 93]	60,070	*149,181	2,483	555	610

*Ratified funds for the cultural sector.

Source: Column 2, Five-Year Plan for the cultural sector and information dissemination (1368-1372 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1994]); Column 3 taken from Chart 4.

[8 May 95, p 6]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Per Capita Private Cultural Expenditures (Families)

One of the important educational centers is the family. Naturally, in order to have children grow up well in this environment, they must be secure in terms of food, clothing, and other basic living needs. They must eat a sufficient amount of calories. The family must have the resources for educational and extracurricular tools for them, and, more importantly, the parents should be able to rear their children. Hence, in order for these important educational centers to produce the necessary results, they must be economically secure. Presently in our country, some families do not have the necessary economic capability to send their children to school. Hence, it is necessary for the government to seek cultural development in fighting poverty, placing a great deal of emphasis on fair distribution of income, which is a goal of Islam and also a belief of developmental scholars, and eliminating poverty through the social security system, providing essential goods and other means. Naturally in that case, families will be more able to allocate a greater portion of their budget to the cultural sector. Essentially, while the food and clothing needs of the family are not secure, they cannot engage in education and will lack the idea of cultural planning.

Given that, we shall examine the per capita cultural budget in urban and rural families to see what importance families have placed on culture—in a sense, what importance they have been able to place on it.

Examination of the Per Capita Expenditures of Urban Families

For example, an examination of the situation in 1366 shows that the coefficient of the importance of cultural goods and services in urban society, by calculating the average net income of the urban family at R1,149,296 and the average annual expenditures of an urban family at R1,488,780, was 0.6 percent. Also, it can be seen that this ratio in 1369 showed no increase compared to 1362 and, despite the increase in this ratio in 1369 compared to 1357 and 1368, had reached the same level of 0.8 percent as it was in 1362 (Chart 7).

Chart 7: Per Capita Cultural Expenditures of Urban Families

	Figures in Rials							
Description of expenditures	1362	1363	1364	1365	1366	1367	1368	1369
Total Expenditures	1,113,120	1,240,488	1,279,956	1,314,576	1,488,780	1,800,324	2,086,138	2,293,779
Recreation and Entertainment	9,444	10,644	12,156	9,888	9,576	8,604	12,399	18,094
Educational Expenditures	8,604	8,916	9,432	11,196	13,344	17,064	19,673	28,301
Ratio of Recreational and Entertainment Expenditures to Total Expenditures	0.8	0.86	0.9	0.75	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8

Figures in Rials								
Ratio of Educational Expenditures to Total Expenditures	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.85	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.2
Per Capita Cultural Expenditures of Families at Current Prices	1,888	2,129	2,431	1,977	1,915	1,720	2,480	3,619
Per Capita Cultural Family Expenditures at Fixed Prices	1,642	1,676	1,800	1,184	899	628	835	1,043

Source 1: "Summary of the Situation of Urban and Rural Family Expenditures and Income in 1362 to 1367," Iranian Statistical Center.

Source 2: "A Report on Urban and Rural Iranian Family Expenditures and Income in 1369," Iranian Statistical Center.

In 1369, the average annual expenditures of an urban family were R2,293,779 (R191,148 per month), which marked an increase of 9 percent compared to the previous year. Also, this figure in 1368 was R2,086,138, which compared to 1367 increased by about 14 percent (Chart 7). An examination of the average non-food annual expenditures of urban families shows that in 1368, the cost of housing, at 49 percent of the total non-food expenditures of an urban family, had the greatest share. This expenditure increased by 17.5 percent compared to the previous year, and cultural costs,[6] under the heading of "recreational entertainment," at 8 percent of the total expenditures of an urban family, had the lowest share (Chart 7).

Recreation and entertainment and education in 1369 made up about 2 percent of the total expenditures of a family, which again, in the allocation of family budget, had the lowest figure. Naturally, when the cost of housing is about 50 percent of the total non-food expenditures of an urban family,[7] no matter how culturally minded the head of the household is and what priority is given to culture, he cannot allocate a large percentage of the family income to cultural expenditures.

In Chart 7, the per capita cultural expenditures of urban families have been calculated at current and fixed prices. As can be seen, the per capita cultural expenditures in 1362-1369 fluctuated greatly and from 1365-1367 increased. Also, in 1369, the per capita cultural expenditures compared to 1362 decreased about 37 percent. This shows that despite the increasing per capita cultural expenditures from 1367 on, due to increases in inflation and the unfair distribution of incomes, they have not been favorable increases (Graph 4).

Graph 4: Per Capita Cultural Expenditures of Iranian Families at the Fixed Prices of 1361 During the Years 1362-1369 [Graph 4 not reproduced here]

The situation with regard to the per capita cultural expenditures of rural families was almost similar to that of urban families. In 1369, the average annual expenditures of a rural family were R1,627,275 (R135,606 per month), which is an increase of 20 percent compared to the previous year. Also, an examination of the average non-food expenditures of rural families shows that in 1368, of the total family expenditures, 51.3 percent (R835,178) concerned non-food expenditures. Among the non-food expenditures, the highest share concerns expenditures for "clothing and shoes," at 32 percent, and the lowest involves recreation, entertainment, and educational expenditures, 2.6 percent.[7] [Footnote numbering as published; two footnotes numbered 7 in the text, but only one 7 in the notes] Also, similar to urban families, the ratio of cultural services expenditures in the total expenditures in 1369 is the same as in 1362. In other words, during the 1362-1369 period, this ratio remained almost the same. The ratio of educational expenditures to total expenditures has also not been very satisfactory during this period.

A glance at Chart 8 reveals the coefficient of the budget allocated by families to cultural matters and the amount that has been allocated to this important issue every year. The per capita cultural expenditure in 1369 is R480, which decreased by about 13 percent compared to 1362 (R549), despite the fact that after 1368, this ratio increased.

Chart 8: Per Capita Cultural Expenditures of Rural Families

Figures in Rials

Description of expenditures	1362	1363	1364	1365	1366	1367	1368	1369
Total Expenditures	611,676	670,728	677,616	761,592	908,436	1,058,424	1,307,247	1,627,275
Recreation and Entertainment	3,156	4,164	4,416	4,560	4,956	3,984	5,513	8,337
Educational Expenditures	3,072	3,180	3,612	4,488	5,604	8,412	9,042	13,600
Ratio of Recreational and Entertainment Expenditures to Total Expenditures	0.5	0.6	0.65	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5
Ratio of Educational Expenditures to Total Expenditures	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.8
Per Capita Cultural Expenditures of Families at Current Prices	631	833	883	912	991	797	1,103	1,667
Per Capita Cultural Family Expenditures at Fixed Prices	549	656	654	546	465	291	371	480

Source: Same.

A glance at the total index and recreation and entertainment and educational Graphs (6 and 7) reveals that despite the increasing trend of the total index in 1368, 1369, and 1370, the index graph of cultural expenditures has declined. This problem is due to the little importance placed on cultural issues by families and government's failure to offer cultural resources.

Graph 6: Total Index Graph [Graph 6 not reproduced here]

Graph 7: Recreation, Entertainment, and Educational Index Graph [Graph 7 not reproduced here]

Source: "Index of Goods and Services, Retail Prices in 1370," Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Conclusion

1. Culture is the basis and foundation of our attitudes, and a significant part of economic attitudes is also based on this foundation. Culture is the root of the economic development tree, and we need an independent cultural identity for development.

2. The ratio of the budget of the cultural sector to the general national budget is at a low level, and on average this ratio in 1365-1370 is 1 percent (Chart 2).

3. The growth of the ratified operations of the cultural sector in 1365, 66, 67, 68, 69 is -20.5, 0.8, 0.3, -32.5, and 4.7 percents, respectively (Chart 2).

4. Little attention has been paid to tourism in the distribution of funds in the cultural sector according to categories.

5. The per capita cultural expenditures allocated by the government have gone from R902 in 1361 to R555 in 1371, and also the per capita cultural expenditures of government in 1365-1371 years decreased by 43, 59, 62, 61, 48, 29, and 39 percents, respectively (Chart 6).

6. The ratios of cultural expenditures of urban and rural families to the total family expenditures are 0.7 and 0.5 percents, respectively, which are the lowest share of the total expenditures of a family. Also, it can be seen that this ratio in 1369 compared to 1362 has had no increase (Charts 7 and 8).

7. The per capita cultural expenditures of urban and rural families in 1368 at the fixed prices were about half the per capita cultural expenditures in 1362. Also, despite

the insignificant cultural expenditures of families, these expenditures in 1369 compared to 1362 decreased by about 37 percent in urban society and 13 percent in rural society (Charts 7 and 8 and Graphs 4 and 5).

8. "In the Five-Year Plan of 1368-1372, in order to increase the coefficient of the importance of cultural, artistic, recreational, and educational affairs to the total consumer goods and services, the coefficient for the importance of cultural affairs was set at 8 percent for urban society and 3 percent for rural society,"[8] whereas, for example, this coefficient in 1369 (that is, the last year for which expenditure and income information is available) was 3 percent for urban society and 1.2 percent for rural society (Charts 7 and 8).

Notes

1. Esma'il Sarrajoddin, "Culture, Authorizing, and Model of Development," translated by 'Ali Hashemi, NEGAH-E NO, No. 5.

2. Herman Kahn, pp. 121-122, 339, Calcalark, "The Taiwan Implications for Contending Political Economy Paradigms," INTERNATIONAL STUDIES QUARTERLY (1987), 310, 327, 357.

3. Lord Kelvin.

4. L. T. Matthew, STATISTICAL SYSTEM FOR CULTURAL PLANNING IN ASIA, translated by Victoria Mansuri-Mo'ayyad and Shahla Ashraf (Tehran: Ministry of Plan and Budget Guidance, Culture and Art Administration, 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985]).

5. Funds that are allocated as "the funds for the Islamic culture and guidance sector" in the budget by the government include three categories: 1. culture and art; 2, information and media; and 3. tourism.

6. Does not include educational expenditures.

7. "A Report on the Expenditures and Incomes of Rural and Urban Families in 1369," Iranian Statistical Center.

8. "Five-Year Plan for the Cultural Sector and Information (1368-1372)," p. 21.

*Production of 100,000 Tons of Copper Reported

95LA0179H Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Mar 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] The celebration for the production of more than 100,000 tons of copper at the Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex was attended by Engineer Mahluji, minister of mines and metals; Mr. Bank, governor general of Kerman; Majles deputies; Friday imams; and several of the province's executive officials. It took place at the Industrial Mining Assembly Hall at the Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex.

At this ceremony, Engineer Moazenzadeh, executive director of the Iran National Copper Industries Company, gave a speech. He said: Today the annual production of 100,000 tons of cathode copper at this center through work and effort has special importance. He added: With the proper understanding of the importance of this valuable industrial product, which is to be seen at all levels of the nation's economic and industrial decisionmaking, we are seeing increases every day in production of this vital metal.

Eng. Moazenzadeh added: Today's celebration is actually the high point of 17 years of ceaseless effort by the men and women who engaged in a great crusade in this corner of the vast Islamic land. The fruit of this continuous effort is the extraction of 182 million tons of mined materials and its fruit is 2.7 million tons of concentrate and 945,000 tons of cast copper ingots.

The final product of this great project is 590,000 tons of cathode copper. Its international price, calculated at the prices for the time of production, is $1.574 billion. So far $563 million of it has been exported, and the rest has been sold inside the country to meet the needs of the lower industries.

Domestic sales for the Iran National Copper Industries Company are more than R821 million.

Of this amount, 344,000 tons of production cathode has been produced under the First Five-Year Plan, so that the production of 43,000 tons in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] has increased to more than 100,000 tons this year.

He said: A comparison between the first year of the First Five-Year Plan and this year shows that the extraction of 11.7 million tons of rock ore increased to 21.8 million tons in the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995]. During the same period the production of concentrated copper increased from 168,000 tons to 370,000 tons, and cast ingot production increased from 26,000 tons to 138,000 tons this year.

He added: To meet the nation's domestic needs, so far 285,000 tons of 8-millimeter wire has been produced at Sarcheshmeh, and this reality is indicated by the increase in production from 25,000 tons in the year 1368 to 48,000 tons this year.

The sale of these products has enabled the company, in addition to repaying much of the government's debt, to spend more than R200 billion on reconstruction and development of the Sarcheshmeh complex and for investments in the nation's copper mines.

These projects include the Miduk Copper Mines Complex, the Sungun-e Ahar Copper Mines Complex, the

Project to Produce Copper from Oxide Stone or by Leaching, the Khatunabad Copper Foundry Project, the purchase of the Sarcheshmeh gas power plant, the Railroad Construction Project, the Gas Delivery Project, the construction of Water Return Line 2 at the sediment capture dam, the Darehzar Copper Project, the Project to Change the Power Transfer Line, the S02 Gas Neutralization Project, the Design Project to Develop Foundries and Refineries, and the construction of the amulite and amulan [as published] Factory.

Eng. Moazenzadeh said: These projects are being implemented to reach the goals in the Second Five-Year Development Plan to reach annual production of 580,000 tons of copper concentrate and molybdenite, 250,000 tons of copper ingots and consequently the production of 180,000 tons of cathode copper. The hope is that with the completion and startup of these projects, we will see the achievement of the goals set by the respected Majles.

He emphasized: The investment needed for the aforementioned projects is $600 million and R670 billion.

He discussed the situation regarding some of these projects. He said: The technical and economic studies for the Miduk Complex indicate that it is economically viable and that with the expenditure of $120 million and R150 billion we will succeed in producing 150,000 tons of concentrate. So far close to R70 billion has been spent from revenues, and the project is active and under implementation.

Likewise regarding Sungun Ahari, exploration activities began at the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan, and the results achieved show that the extractable reserves at this mine are more than 400 million tons of copper ore. If the $180 million in financial resources is obtained, it will be possible to operate this mine up to the concentrate production stage. So far close to R40 billion has been spent.

According to him, the Khatunabad Foundry Project has also been designed to create added value and produce copper concentrate and convert it to copper ingots. The cost of this project is about $115 million and R230 billion and will be met from the company's internal resources. This factory's annual production will be 80,000 tons of blister copper tested at 98.6 percent.

Implementation of this project began at the beginning of the current year [21 March 1994]; it is to go into operation late in the Second Five-Year Plan.

With regard to the Leaching Project, the executive director of the Iran National Copper Industries Company added: Just as our guests have seen, this project was designed to extract copper from oxide ore, and the factory in question is being completed with an annual capacity of 14,500 tons of cathode copper and with the expenditure of $32 million and R360 billion. God willing, it will go into production early in the year 1375 [21 March 1996-20 March 1997].

He discussed the project to produce amulite and amulan [as published]. He said: With the development of the technology of production in the world's open mines, studies have been done of the manufacture of new substances that can be worked in special circumstances and in pits filled with water. Researchers were finally able to produce the doughy amulite [as published] substance, which has a high safety indicator.

The conditions at the Sarcheshmeh Copper Mine, the increases every day in the depth of the mine, and finally the problems with the existing materials being used and the production fluctuations led the company to put the factory in question into operation at a cost of about $4 million.

Eng. Moazenzadeh also discussed the Gas Delivery Project. He said: To make the best use of energy and to reduce pollution and to replace the current annual consumption of 400,000 tons of various liquid fuel with the natural gas, the project to deliver gas to this complex is being implemented. The construction costs for this project are estimated at about R28 billion and more than $6 million, of which R9 billion and $163,000 has already been spent from the company's internal resources. It is hoped that we will see the use of this natural resource early in the year 1375.

He said: To meet the goals of the First Five-Year Development Plan and in accordance with the government's emphasis on privatization, the Iran National Copper Industries Company has privatized its commercial and supply operations and most of its service work, and in this matter it has profited gradually from the cooperation of the personnel of the commercial investment and service companies.

One of the goals achieved has been the modification of the company's manpower structure. On that basis it has made a new manpower organization model, and the 6,500 personnel employed in the year 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992] has been reduced to 4,200 people in the year 1373.

The company's most important goal is the planning to obtain specialist manpower under the Second Five-Year Plan.

In the training sector, the company, with its extensive resources at the Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex, has so far put 577,000 man-hours into various kinds of specialist training, and there are already 96 students studying at this complex. The most prominent measures taken in this regard include the creation of a master's degree program in metallurgy with the cooperation of the Sharif Industrial University and the master's degree program in industrial management with the cooperation of the Government Management Organization.

At the end of his talk Engineer Moazenzadeh praised the efforts that have been made. He said: Without the sympathy, like-mindedness, and cooperation of all forces, these successes would never have been achieved. There is no doubt that the managers, the experts, and the zealous workers at this complex are committed to sparing no effort to achieve the goals of the nation's Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan in the copper industry.

Here it is appropriate that I give my thanks and that of the copper family to the respected minister of mines and metals, this ministry's management, the respected Majles deputies, and especially the dear brothers on the Province Industries and Mines Commission and the province officials, for their comprehensive and decisive support of the development of the copper industry.

In conclusion it is appropriate for us to give thanks for the support from the dear brothers of the Kerman Center of the Voice and Vision Organization, who in observance of this day opened Channel 3 of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At the same time I ask Eng. Mahluji to encourage the managers, specialists, and hard-working laborers at this complex, in whatever way he deems advisable.

As the production celebration continued, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdavi, Majles deputy from Kerman, discussed the ceaseless efforts by the engineers and workers at the great Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex in producing more than 100,000 tons in the year 1373. He said: The efforts of the dear forces and anonymous, sincere, and toiling warriors at this complex illustrate the nation of Iran's firm resolve not to be dependent on foreigners. By producing as much as possible, the engineers and workers at this complex are telling the United States that the great nation of Iran will spare no effort in the field of industry and in achieving self-sufficiency.

As these ceremonies continued, Mr. Bank, governor general of Kerman, cited the production of 100,000 tons of cathode copper at the Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex as a demonstration of the growth and flowering of the talents of a heroic nation. He said: We have gathered here to acknowledge the great activities of the dear toiling workers at this complex and to declare to the people of the world that if a nation makes use of its resources and talents, it can see the fruits of these efforts.

He added: This celebration is in reality a celebration of the abilities of workers and committed engineers, who, relying on Almighty God and their own strong arms, have declared to the people of the world that we have the power to grow and prosper. In reality the production celebration is a celebration in praise of all those who were active in this great task. This celebration shows the Islamic Republic of Iran's position in management and planning for the nation's economic and social development.

As this splendid celebration continued, Engineer Mahluji, minister of mines and metals, praised the efforts of the insiders, the engineers, and the hard-working laborers at this complex. He said: We hope that the production of cathode copper at this complex will increase to 110,000 tons in the year 1374 [21 Mar 1995- 20 Mar 1996].

He added: The presence of more than 10 Majles deputies at this celebration shows the special favor the Majles gives to the progress at this complex.

He praised the Majles deputies and said: The Majles' unstinting support has made us successful in many projects in the country, and in reality we have no problem in the country or in the world in the political, military, and economic dimensions. This has been completely proven.

He added: After the triumph of the revolution and the imposed war, our efforts aimed at eliminating the weaknesses in the economic dimensions.

He said: In the First Five-Year Plan our experts have directed and are directing most of their attention to the infrastructure sectors. Most of the investment under the First Five-Year Plan was allocated for building dams, power plants, and basic and mother industries.

Mr. Mahluji added: We have gradually witnessed the effects of the investments in projects to develop railroads, electrical power, petrochemical units, and refineries.

He said: In the year 1367 [21 Mar 1988- 20 Mar 1989] the copper industry produced 40,000 tons of cathode copper, and at the end of the year 1373 this figure reached 100,000 tons.

Engineer Mahluji said: Today the companies under this ministry have never looked to the Central Bank for foreign exchange under any circumstances, and in this regard I call upon the Majles deputies to support the organizations under the Ministry of Mines and Metals as models of industry and mining, and the nation's banking systems must also support this idea.

He discussed the rate of sale in these complexes. He said: With the decisiveness that has been exercised since the month of Shahrivar 1373 [23 August-22 September], there has been no selling at high prices of any kind. The pricing of goods must be confined to basic and necessary goods. Industry cannot be managed with artificial prices.

He then discussed the Second Five-Year Development Plan. He said: In the Second Five-Year Plan steel production will increase from 5 million tons to 10 million tons and in the copper industry it will increase from 100,000 tons to 200,000 tons. It will be possible to see progress today by encouraging the private sector to invest in industry.

Noting that Majles support in this regard is quite necessary, he said: Majles support can create means so that private sector companies can stand on their own. With regard to exports from the Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex, Engineer Mahluji said: The nation's domestic need for these products has now been met, and some production is also being exported.

As these ceremonies continued, the minister of mines and metals, along with the governor-general of Kerman, several Majles deputies, the executive director of the Iran National Copper Industries Company, and other guests visited the foundry, the refinery, the sediment capture dam, and the project to extract copper from oxidized ore. He said: For the 27 million tons of oxidized ore in this complex, a factory with an annual capacity of 14,000 tons of cathode copper is being completed at a cost of $32 million and R360 billion; it will go into production early in the year 1375.

Based on this report, the Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex Railroad Station is another place that was inspected by the minister of mines and metals. Using this station, the products from the Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex, including copper belite [as published], slabs, and wire, are hauled to other parts of the country.

Engineer Mahluji told a gathering of reporters at the Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex: Iran is in the green belt, meaning copper. Every year nine million tons of copper are produced in the world, and our share is 4 percent.

He added: The 100,000 tons of cathode copper produced at this complex is one percent of the world's production, and in the Second Five-Year Development Plan we will try to raise the production ceiling to 200,000 tons.

With regard to Iran's membership in GATT, he said: We are trying to make our country a member of GATT so we will be better able to market our products on international markets.

The minister of mines and metals discussed the operation of the nation's mines in the Second Five-Year Development Plan. He said: The Gol Gohar development project will be implemented with $60 million in credits so that steel production will increase from 2.5 million tons to 5.5 million tons.

He said: Effective steps will be taken on the Decorative Stone Project and other products. In this regard the cooperative and private sectors will be involved, and the private sectors will be reinforced so they can grow as needed through investment in production.

Mr. Mahluji then discussed the development of the rock coal mines in the Province of Kerman. He said: With the project to modify the coal-washing plant at Zarand, the return on coal production will rise, and in this regard efforts are being made to transfer small mines to the private and cooperative sectors.

He said: We are trying to activate the private sector with bank participation and to develop other factories using our own resources.

Pakistan

Further on Visit by Iran's Petroleum Minister

Company Formed To Supervise Project

BK0706152495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and Iran will form a joint venture company to look after and supervise the gas pipeline project. The company may later on join the consortium to be entrusted with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.

Agreement to this effect was arrived at in a meeting in Islamabad between the Iranian delegation led by petroleum minister, Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, and the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan.

Both the sides discussed at length the broad parameters and principles of the proposed joint venture company which will be incorporated in the shareholders agreement after the approval of respective governments of both the countries. The meeting also decided that a letter of invitation to solicit expression of interests from six prequalified international oil and gas companies will be issued by mid of July this year.

The offer of the National Iranian LPG [liquefied petroleum gas] Company to increase quantity of imported LPG also came under discussion. It was agreed that the private sector companies already engaged in import of liquefied petroleum gas, LPG, from Iran by road would be encouraged to negotiate details with Iranian LPG company directly for this purpose.

Agreements Discussed by Minister

LD0806103195 Tehran IRNA in English
0918 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, June 8, IRNA — Visiting Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i announced here Wednesday [7 June] that Iran and Pakistan had finalized an agreed for establishment of a joint refinery in Karachi.

Speaking to IRNA in conclusion of the second round of his talks with Pakistani ministers of oil, natural resources and of industries on Wednesday, Aqazadeh-Kho'i said the refinery will be set up with a capital of dlrs. one billion and with a capacity of 120,000 bpd. [sentence as received]

He added that the Iranian designed refinery would provide a new market for sale of Iranian oil.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i said the two countries had also agreed to establish a joint venture for a gas pipeline project taking Iran's gas to Pakistan. Letters of invitation will be issued within two weeks to foreign companies to take part in the venture, he said.

After receiving the invitations, Aqazadeh-Kho'i noted, the unnamed companies have a 75-day deadline to offer their proposals and conditions.

He added that ministers of oil of the two countries would later discuss the proposals in a meeting in Tehran next September. He said about dlrs. 3.5 billion has been earmarked for the implementation of the gas project with a 1,600 kms long pipeline transfering Iranian natural gas from Southern Pars fields to the province of Sind in Pakistan. The minsiter added that Islamabad has so far demanded 1.6 billion cubic feet of Iranian gas per day.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i arrived here Tuesday and held meetings with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, his counterpart, Anwar Saifullah and a number of other Pakistani ministers.

Bhutto Urges MQM Group To Renounce Arms

BK0706161695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has underlined the importance of a political dialogue in democratic system and said: We fully believe in negotiations to resolve the problems. She was talking informally to correspondents in Islamabad this afternoon. The prime minister urged the Muhajir Qaumi Movement's Altaf Group to renounce weapons, surrender wanted criminals, and enter into a dialogue with the government to restore peaceful conditions in Karachi.

Replying to several questions, she categorically stated: We want peace in Karachi and do not want to conduct raids on the houses of people. She pointed out that restoration of peace in Karachi is in the interest of the people of that city and the country. She said her government wants to work for the development of the Karachi so as to serve the people of the city, who also share the government's perception for their well-being.

The prime minister said those who resort to sniper shooting on innocent people, police, and rangers, have been fully exposed before the people. The prime minister warned these elements that they cannot get their objectives fulfilled by their politics of violence and guns and it will be in their own interest to lay down arms and hold talks with the government to normalize the situation. The prime minister said the present government did not launch any operation in Karachi, but has taken several steps to demonstrate a spirit of goodwill, including the withdrawal of Army from Karachi, to fulfill a demand of the Altaf group.

Responding a query as to with whom does the government want to hold a dialogue, the prime minister said that she is prepared to hold talks with the senators, provincial assembly members, and other leaders belonging to the Altaf Group. In response to a question on the opposition leader's demand for withdrawing bogus cases against Altaf Hussain, the prime minister said these cases were filed during the tenure of Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's government. If the opposition leader now describes these cases as bogus, and then he himself should face cases in retribution to these, what he described as false cases. She said: As far as our government is concerned, we cannot violate Islamic tenets or the traditions of the laws of the land in this regard.

Official Comments on Karachi Violence, 'Terrorism'

BK0706143795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sindh governor, Mr. Kamal Azfar, has said the provincial government is working on a one-point agenda to restore peace and security in Karachi by curbing violence and terrorism.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said the present situation in Karachi is the result of the policies of martial law government which created a divide between the urban and rural populace. Other reasons that contribute to it include a massive influx of illegal migrants, weaponization due to Afghan war, and the freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir.

Mr. Kamal Azfar said after taking over as governor, he met over 1,000 people representing all walks of life who have assured full cooperation in restoring normalcy. The governor enumerated various projects being launched in Karachi to improve infrastructure and other facilities and create employment opportunities. To a question, he said there is no plan to recall Army although the situation is complex.

Karachi Police Arrest 39; Recover Arms, Drugs

BK0706155295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi police has arrested 39 accused persons and recovered illegal arms, narcotics, and stolen goods. The CIA [Crime Investigation Agency] police has also arrested another accomplices of the four accused involved in more than 50 murder cases. He is an absconding police constable of District Central.

Four other accused already arrested have made sensational disclosures about killings of 50 people in mosques, madrasas [religious schools], and other places. On their pointation, two stolen taxis, a car, and five motorcycles have been recovered.

End to Violence Said Prelude to Karachi Talks

BK0806033895 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 8 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "No talks without peace"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting of Pakistan People's Party [PPP], chaired by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, condemned the use of violence by MQM (A) [Muhajir Qaumi Movement — Altaf] in Karachi and said that Nawaz Sharif, Awami National Party and Altaf Group are trying to disrupt the democratic system in the country. Briefing newsmen after the meeting, PPP Secretary-General Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad said that Altaf group's hand in the violence in Karachi has been established by disclosures made by activists of the group who were arrested in different parts of the country. Sheikh Rafiq said there was consensus among the CEC members that an end to violence was a prelude to any political settlement in Karachi.

The MQM (A) is making no secret of its intention of keeping Karachi in the grip of violence and creating anarchy. Time and again Altaf Hussain has made highly offensive outbursts from London. Instead of trying to rein in his followers and make them desist from senseless blood-letting, he has been instigating them to attack all dissidents of the party and keep conditions in Karachi disturbed. That he keeps himself aloof from the mainstream of Pakistani politics and is only interested in having his unreasonable demands met through street power is proved by the fact that he has not even once condemned the gross violations of human rights in Kashmir — an issue which is uppermost in the minds of the Pakistanis. On the contrary, whenever voice is raised in the country in support of the Kashmiris, violence is stepped up in Karachi. So far the Government has done all it could to meet the reasonable demands of the MQM (A) so that peace could be restored in Karachi. Such positive steps were taken as the withdrawal of armed forces from Sindh, adoption of an even-handed policy towards both the factions of the MQM, induction of an Urdu-speaking governor for the province and initiation of a massive development programme for the city of Karachi. But all this elicited no response from MQM (A) and violence did not abate. Activists of the group who have been apprehended have reportedly admitted purchasing sophisticated weapons, including rocket launchers, from the tribal areas and smuggling them into Karachi for disruptive activities. It is strange that while speaking in the National Assembly about the crisis in Karachi, Leader of the Opposition Mian Nawaz Sharif confined himself to presenting a sort of charge-sheet against the Government for the unfortunate happenings in Karachi but did not say a word against the contribution MQM (A) has made to the mayhem and bloodshed in the city. Incidentally, it was during his tenure that the army action was started in Karachi and Altaf Hussain's torture chambers were unearthed. It was Nawaz Sharif government which registered cases against the Altaf group, including its leader, for kidnapping and torture. And now he wants all cases to be withdrawn against the culprits. The Government has repeatedly said that it wants a political solution to the Karachi imbroglio and is prepared to talk to all political parties for restoration or peace in the city. If Altaf Hussain can prove his bona fides and patriotic intentions by asking his people to lay down arms and stop killing innocent people, the Government could well consider entering in negotiations with his party. The ball is in his court as also of the Leader of the Opposition.

Sri Lanka

Red Cross To Escort Food Ships to Jaffna

BK0706125395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] will continue to escort government food ships to Jaffna as it has obtained fresh guarantees from the government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] about respecting the ICRC presence.

They have suspended the transport of patients as the other ships are cargo vessels and are not equipped to carry passengers. ICRC's deputy chief in Colombo, (Paul Pruce), said. He said the ICRC will have to look for another ship to carry the sick from Jaffna to Trincomalee. The ICRC-chartered Indonesian vessel, the 8,000-ton Sea Dancer, which was ripped when it hit a sea mine on Sunday [4 June], sank yesterday morning, Mr. (Pruce) said naval authorities had informed him. Naval authorities said the minesweeping operations was continuing (?yesterday) too. They have to ensure that the entire sea area is safe for their boats, an officer said.

Mr. (Pruce) said that the ICRC was also considering a strengthening of security for food ships. He said the Colombo office is in constant contact with the Geneva-based head office about future developments.

Police Reportedly 'Hunting' for Bombing Suspects

BK0806055095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0523 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 8 (AFP) — Sri Lankan police Thursday [8 June] were hunting for two men believed to have planted a powerful car bomb which failed to activate properly outside the Colombo International airport, official sources said.

Investigators know the identity of the two men who left the van packed with plastic explosives on Monday and the search for them is continuing, officials said.

"They had posed as car dealers. Neighbours had seen them tinkering with the van that was loaded with the explosives," an official source said, adding that the two men were from the island's northern Point Pedro region.

Only the detonator of the bomb went off, limiting the damage to the van, which was left at a toll car park at the airport despite tight security arrangements at the facility.

Forensic experts found that the actual explosive content of the bomb was less than feared at first. It turned out to be 35 kilograms (77 pounds) although police initially said it weighed 80 kilos (176 pounds).

However, even the lower weight could have caused considerable damage to the arrival terminal building, the car park and the airport's flight kitchen, officials said.

Police said that the use of sophisticated plastic explosives pointed to the probable involvement of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who have been accused of setting off similar bombs here in the past.

The LTTE is leading a protracted guerrilla campaign to establish an independent homeland for the two-million-Tamil minority concentrated in the northern and eastern parts of the island.

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